

FORTY-SIXTH  
ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE  
SANITARY CONDITION

OF THE  
Northern Combined District

OF  
WEST SUSSEX,  
1919,

BY THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,  
S. CHILD, M.B., D.P.H.

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MIDHURST.

R. J. ACFORD, PRINTER.

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1920.



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TO THE MEMBERS OF THE HORSHAM URBAN, HORSHAM, MIDHURST,  
PETWORTH AND THAKEHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCILS.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Having in February, 1919, returned to my duties, which have, during my absence, been so ably undertaken by Drs. Butcher and Rawdon Wood, I have the honour to present to you the 46th Annual Report on the districts in the Combined Area. In compiling the same I have endeavoured as far as possible in the short time permitted, and without clerical assistance, to fulfil the requests of the Ministry of Health contained in Circular 66, which was brought to your attention, if not read, at your meetings in February, 1920.

The most noteworthy event of the first year of re-construction after the war has been the formation of the Ministry of Health, which should mark the year 1919 as the beginning of an epoch in which the Nation first dimly realised that the health of the community is the only matter of supreme importance.

It is hardly necessary to refer to Housing as the outstanding problem of the moment. Schemes have been adopted by your respective Councils for the building of new working class cottages, which if carried out, would appear to be sufficient to meet the demand. At the same time the necessity for providing new houses, seems rather to have overshadowed that of rendering habitable the large number which are unfit, and although it has been during the past year owing to the shortage of labour, difficult to make much progress, the time has come when more attention should be paid to this aspect of the housing problem.

The tendency of the past few years has been for the Central Authority to place the administration of new measures relating to Public Health under the care of the County Council, which may make for efficiency and possibly economy, but appears to foreshadow the ultimate extinction of the District Council as the local Sanitary Authority. Perhaps the most important of these measures undertaken during the war, by the County Council, is the introduction of a scheme of Maternity and Child Welfare, and Health Visit in conjunction with the County Nursing Association. Although the scheme is hardly yet in full working order, yet the beneficial effects are already very noticeable.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

STANLEY CHILD.



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*HORSHAM URBAN DISTRICT.*

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1919.

## VITAL STATISTICS, 1919.

## SUMMARY.

Area in Acres .. .. .	1,279
Population at Census, 1911 .. .. .	11,314
Population estimated to middle of 1915 .. .. .	11,217
Number of Births .. .. .	162
Rate per 1,000 living .. .. .	13.0
Number of Deaths .. .. .	184
Crude rate per 1,000 living .. .. .	16.3
Infantile mortality under 1 year per 1,000 births .. .. .	74
Excess of Deaths over Births .. .. .	22
Death rate from 7 principal Epidemic Diseases .. .. .	0.08
Death rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis .. .. .	1.1
New Houses built .. .. .	0

## ENGLAND AND WALES, 1919.

Birth Rate .. .. .	18.5
Death Rate .. .. .	13.8
Infant Mortality .. .. .	89



# Horsham Urban District.

	1881	1891	1901	1911
Area of Statute Acres .. ..	883	839	839	1279
Number of inhabited houses ..	1396	1657	2275	2545
Number of uninhabited houses	113	156	131	136
Number of building .. ..	12	18	15	1
Population .. ..	6874	8087	9446	11314
Persons to a house .. ..	4.94	4.88	4.74	4.45

## NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

Horsham is a market town in the North-Eastern part of the County, about thirty-five miles from London, on the Junction of the formation known as the Hastings Sands with the Wealden Clay, but chiefly on the former. The town is largely residential, and is the retail shopping centre of the surrounding district. The London Brighton and South Coast Railway forming a junction of four converging lines gives employment to a considerable section of the inhabitants, the remainder being engaged in the various occupations pertaining to this type of town. There is no large staple industry.

### POPULATION.

The population at the census of 1911 amounted to 11,314. At the previous census 1901, it was 9,446, but in October 1901 the area of the Urban District was extended by the inclusion of Roffey, thus increasing the population to 11,781. The actual increase in the population in the decade was only 523.

The population, civilians only, estimated to the middle of the year by the Registrar-General was 11,227.

For the purpose of calculating the birth rate the population was estimated at 11,695, the proportion of non-civilian persons being added whether at home or serving abroad.

### BIRTHS.

The nett total of births belonging to the district was 162. Males 89, females 73. The number of illegitimate births was 16. The birth rate per 1,000 of the population estimated as above was 13.0.

The number of births notified to the Medical Officer of Health was 113, by Doctors 24, by Midwives, etc., 113, including 5 still-born.

The following table shows the decline in the birth rate during the past ten years :—

Year	Rate	Year	Rate
1910	21.8	1915	18.4
1911	21.1	1916	19.5
1912	17.7	1917	16.3
1913	19.5	1918	14.4
1914	18.4	1919	13.0

The birth rate for England and Wales for 1919 was 18.5, and for West Sussex Urban Districts 14.88.

## DEATHS.

The nett number of deaths belonging to the district after deducting 23 deaths of non-residents and adding the deaths of 20 residents dying outside the district, was 184.

The death rate per 1,000 of the estimated non-civilian population was 16.3.

An excess of deaths over births was again recorded, the number being 22.

The principal causes of death are here given :—

Influenza .. .. .	18	Pneumonia .. .. .	7
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	14	Other respiratory ..	4
Other Tuberculosis ..	2	Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ..	1
Cancer .. .. .	25	Appendicitis .. .. .	2
Meningitis .. .. .	1	Nephritis .. .. .	4
Organic Heart Disease ..	32	Congenital Debility ..	6
Bronchitis .. .. .	15	Violence apart from suicide	6

The rate per 1,000 from influenza was 1.5, and from Pulmonary Tuberculosis 1.1.

The death rate for England and Wales in 1919 was 13.8, and for West Sussex Urban Districts, 14.69.

The following table gives the death rate for the past ten years :—

Year	Rate.	Year.	Rate.
1910	12.0	1915	16.8
1911	13.0	1916	17.8
1912	12.6	1917	15.3
1913	14.4	1918	17.1
1914	13.6	1919	16.1

## INFANT MORTALITY.

The deaths of twelve children under one year of age occurred, the mortality per 1,000 births being 74.

The rate of mortality for illegitimate children was 250 per 1,000 births.

The rate for England and Wales was 89, and for West Sussex Urban Districts 85.

The following table shows the slow, but progressive decline for the past twenty years in periods of five years :—

1900—04	102	1910—14	72
1905—09	79	1915—19	68

The following are some particulars of the deaths of children under one year of age from notes of Health Visitors kindly supplied by the County Medical Officer :—

1. Age 10 days, female. Premature. Mother had influenza during last month of pregnancy.

2. Four months, female. Convulsions.

3. Five months, female. Convulsions.
4. Five minutes, male. Illegitimate. Injuries to head. No evidence given as to cause of injury.
5. Two days, male. Debility. The mother was suffering from air raid shock contracted in London 1918.
6. One month, female. Diarrhœa.
7. Two days, female. Premature, weighed  $1\frac{1}{2}$  lbs., health of mother good during pregnancy.
8. Eleven days, female. Premature, 6 months. Mother had given birth to two other premature children, none living.
9. Six months, male. Convulsions. Rickets. The mother objected to health visiting. Artificially fed.
10. Nineteen days, male. Convulsions, premature.
11. Eight hours, male. Premature, born outside of district.
12. Seven days, male. Obstructed labour. Cerebral compression.

General Hospital accommodation in the town is provided by the Cottage Hospital containing fourteen beds, which also serves the Rural District. During 1919, two hundred and nineteen patients were admitted nearly all surgical, two hundred operations being performed.

The Hospital, having become too small for the demands upon it, a scheme has been inaugurated to raise funds, voluntarily, for the building of a larger one, which is making good progress.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

### WATER.

The public water supply of the town is obtained from a deep bore into the Tunbridge-Well sands situated in the town, whence it is pumped to a reservoir with a capacity of 500,000 gallons placed in the highest part of the district at Roffey. The water is exceedingly soft, and of a very high standard of purity. The supply has so far met the requirements of the town, but it is not over abundant.

The amount pumped into the reservoir during 1919 was 74,386,945 gallons, being 4,500,000 in excess of that in 1918. The daily consumption per head of the population is approximately seventeen gallons.

### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The town is provided with a main drainage system. The sewage is disposed of by irrigation, being pumped to Broadbridge Heath Farm of about 145 acres, situated about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles from the town. The effluent is finally delivered into the River Arun. The amount of sewage pumped in 1919 was 63,512,148 gallons, an excess of 11,857,800 gallons on the previous year.



All the houses are connected to the main drainage system but a very large number of houses (800) are still unprovided with flushing cisterns.

#### SCAVENGING.

This is carried out twice a week in the centre of the town, and once a week in the outlying parts, under the supervision of the Surveyor. The number of sanitary ashbins provided during the past ten years is 519. There are still some houses in which one ashbin serves two separate tenements.

#### SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

The following is a summary of the work done by Mr. C. F. Payne, C.R.S.I., Inspector of Nuisances.

Complaints from the public investigated	..	..	..	66
Complaints of overcrowding received	..	..	..	1
Re-inspections of work in progress	..	..	..	1359
Visits to regulated trade premises	..	..	..	633
Premises visited in connection with notifiable disease	..			80
Premises disinfected	..	..	..	48
Cases removed to isolation hospital	..	..	..	5
House drains tested with water	..	..	..	50
House drains tested with smoke	..	..	..	31
House drains relaid or repaired	..	..	..	45
Nuisances discovered :—				
Overcrowding	..	..	..	1
Animals improperly kept	..	..	..	4
House drains blocked	..	..	..	48
Offensive accumulations	..	..	..	9
Cellars flooded	..	..	..	4
Other Nuisances	..	..	..	26
Informal notices served	..	..	..	238
Informal notices complied with	..	..	..	4
Statutory notices served	..	..	..	4
Statutory notices complied with	..	..	..	4

#### SCHOOLS.

There are seven elementary schools consisting of fifteen departments. With the exception of two, they are fairly modern in construction. All are kept in a sanitary condition. The water supply is from the town mains. Trough water closets are in use except at the newly built Oxford Road Schools, where flushing cisterns are installed.

The Medical Officer of Health is also School Medical Inspector.

For action taken in relation to the spread of infectious disease, see general report.

The following school was closed by the School Medical Officer on account of influenza : Victory Road infants, February 1st—9th.

## FOOD.

## MILK SUPPLY.

There are twenty-six persons on the register, of which ten are cowkeepers. With two exceptions the cow sheds are provided with properly paved floors, channelling and with adequate lighting and water supply. The regulations as to cleansing and limewashing are regularly carried out.

The Inspector reports that during the war on those farms in which female milkers replaced male, there was a very marked improvement in general cleanliness, and especially in milking, the girls employed having undergone a special course of training.

## MILK (MOTHER AND CHILDREN) ORDER, 1918.

This Order was administered by the County Council.

## SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

There are twelve slaughter houses on the register, seven of which are registered and five licensed.

A system of voluntary notification by the butchers has come into force during the year, by which the Inspector is notified of the time of slaughtering of all animals. The scheme is working satisfactorily. The number of animals slaughtered since the agreement came into force, September—December was 1658.

No infringements of the Model Bye-laws regulating slaughter houses has been observed.

## FOOD INSPECTION.

Statement as to meat, etc., destroyed as unfit for human food :—

Description.	Weight in lbs.	Remarks.
Beef .. ..	2954	Tuberculosis.
Beef imported .. ..	1018	Imported.
Mutton .. ..	329	Imported.
Pork .. ..	1056	Tuberculosis.
Veal .. ..	35	One carcase.
Offal .. ..	753	-
Fish .. ..	17	
Bacon .. ..	165	
Jam .. ..	224	
Total	6551	

## COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are two common lodging houses on the register. Both houses are kept in a cleanly state, and are limewashed twice yearly. They have been conducted in a proper manner. They are regulated under bye-law, and P.H.A. 1875.

## OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are two recognised marine stores which come under our supervision. There has been no complaint in the conducting of these businesses during the year.

## FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Under this head additional sanitary accommodation has been asked for in respect of two motor works, and at two other workshops the accommodation has been improved.

There are twenty bakehouses which receive the attention of this department.

## FOOD CONTROL.

The duties of enforcement were discharged by this department until the end of June, when the Office of Food Inspector was abolished by the Food Control Committee.

## LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

No legal proceedings were taken under the Public Health, or other Acts, during the year.

## PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following is a list of the diseases now notifiable and the numbers notified. The order, making the notification of Measles and German Measles compulsory was rescinded at the end of the year.

Smallpox .. .. .	—	Acute Poliomyelitis ..	—
Cholera .. .. .	—	Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	—
Diphtheria .. .. .	3	Measles .. }	27
Erysipelas .. .. .	1	German Measles .. }	
Scarlet Fever .. .. .	7	Tuberculosis.	
Typhus .. .. .	—	a. Pulmonary .. ..	13
Typhoid (Enteric) Fever ..	—	b. Other forms .. ..	5
Relapsing Fever .. .. .	—	Malaria .. .. .	—
Continued Fever .. .. .	—	Dysentery .. .. .	—
Puerperal Fever .. .. .	—	Trench Fever .. .. .	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever .. ..	—	Acute Primary Pneumonia ..	—
Encephalitis-Lethargica ..	—	Acute Influenzal ditto ..	2

Seven cases of Scarlet Fever occurred at intervals throughout the year, two being in one family. In three cases at least there were indications that the disease had been acquired outside of the district.

Three cases of Diphtheria only were notified, one being in a newly arrived visitor. The brother of the patient had been discharged a week ago from a London fever hospital. An examination of a swab from his throat proved to be negative, but one from the father was positive.



Twenty seven cases of measles occurred chiefly in a small outbreak in the Roffey district in September, which soon died out. All the cases were very mild. They were visited and reported on by nurses of the local Association with whom the Urban Council have an agreement in return for the payment of an annual grant. (See general report). Although the notification of measles is discontinued, it is to be hoped that the visiting and nursing will be maintained, financed either by the Local Authority or the County Council.

Influenza became epidemic in the town again in the spring causing thirteen deaths.

The Urban District Council are members of the Clinical Research Association. During the year, thirty-three specimens were sent for examination and reported on, twenty-four for the diagnosis of Diphtheria and nine for Tuberculosis.

Eighteen thousand units of Diphtheria Antitoxin were supplied to Medical Practitioners.

Five cases were removed to Cuckfield R.D. Isolation Hospital.

There is no Isolation Hospital in the District. The Council possess an old farmhouse situated on the sewage farm, which was formerly used for the purposes of isolating infectious cases, but which is not suitable for the purpose, and was reported unfavourably by an Inspector from the Local Government Board in 1913. (See general report).

## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

A centre was formed in 1915 under the administration of the County Council (see County Medical Officer's Report) which is yearly becoming of increasing value to the town, and is admirably supported by voluntary helpers.

## SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

There is one Inspector of Nuisances who is also Inspector under the Housing Regulations, 1910, and Food Inspector. The supervision of the water supply, drainage and sewerage and of scavenging is in the hands of the Urban Surveyor, Mr. R. Renwick.

### ACTS AND BYE-LAWS ADOPTED AND IN FORCE.

Adoptive Acts.	Adopted.	Came in force.
Infectious Diseases (Notification Act, 1899) ..	29th May, 1886	8th July, 1896
Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890 ..	29th May, 1886	8th July, 1896
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, Parts 2, 3 and 5 .. ..	6th Oct., 1893	15th Nov., 1893
Private Street Works Acts, 1892 .. ..	8th June, 1900	18th July, 1900

Byelaws with respect to :—

Removal of Refuse and Pre-			
vention of Nuisances ..	7th Sept., 1877	27th Sept., 1877	
Common Lodging Houses ..	7th Sept., 1877	27th Sept., 1877	
Slaughter Houses .. ..	7th Sept., 1877	27th Sept., 1877	
New Streets and Buildings &			
Alterations of Buildings	27th Feb., 1907	9th May, 1907	

## HOUSING.

### I. General Housing conditions in the District.

1. At the census 1911 there were 2545 inhabited dwellings in the district. At the census 1881 there were 1396.

1911 new houses have been built. House inspections under the regulations of 1910 was begun 1912. The number of houses inspected in each year since is as follows :—

1912	44	1916	255
1913	161	1917	163
1914	278	1918	150
1915	250	1919	

Total

The numbers of the working classes is approximately 1600. No new houses have been erected during the year.

2. The population at the Census 1911 was 11,314.

It was considerably reduced during the early years of the war, and in 1918 augmented by numerous air raid refugees causing overcrowding. Again in 1919 by the return of demobilised men. The attraction of Urban life causes a number of working men from the neighbouring district to seek homes in the town, a factor tending to prevent any excess of empty houses.

3. The result of a survey in which figures obtained from the Food Control Office were used as a basis revealed a demand for houses which was estimated at 70.
4. To remedy this the Urban Council have adopted a scheme for the building of 66 houses. The site for 60 of these has been acquired in Oakhill Road.

- II. (1) OVERCROWDING.—The survey in October showed a large amount of overcrowding, no less than 14 tenements being discovered with more than two persons to a room, and 57 in which more than two families were living in the same house.

(2) The causes were the stoppage of the normal buildings during the preceding years and the presence of air raid refugees.



III. (1) (a). The general standard of housing in the district is fairly satisfactory, the proportion of comparatively modern dwellings being high. There remain a few unfit houses which are being dealt with as fast as the shortage of labour permits.

Perhaps the chief outstanding defect is the absence of flushing cisterns to the water closets. No less than 800 houses still remain unprovided.

Others are principally those of general disrepair. The following is a list showing the general character of defects found in 1919.

Defective walls	..	..	..	..	..	..	36
„ floors	..	..	..	..	..	..	56
„ floors absent air bricks under floors	..	..					21
„ ceilings	..	..	..	..	..	..	25
„ roofs	..	..	..	..	..	..	38
„ eaves-gutters and downspouts	..	..					54
„ or absent dampcourses	..	..					9
„ firegrates	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
„ windows	..	..	..	..	..	..	27
„ or absent sinks	..	..	..	..	..	..	25
„ sink waste pipes	..	..	..	..	..	..	25
„ yard paving	..	..	..	..	..	..	31
„ drains	..	..	..	..	..	..	46
„ ventilation and light to rooms	..	..					5
„ privies	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
„ water closets	..	..	..	..	..	..	37
„ or want of proper light and ventilation to W.C's	..	..	..	..	..	..	26
„ curbs to wells	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Houses without water supply over sinks	..	..					19
„ „ sufficient drains	..	..					5
„ „ water closets	..	..					20
„ „ proper food cupboards	..	..					6
„ „ sanitary dust bins	..	..					103
Additional water closets required	..	..					5
General dampness	..	..	..	..	..	..	44
Houses requiring cleansing of walls, ceilings, etc.	..						93

Shortage of labour has been the chief difficulty in remedying unfitness during the year, causing prolonged delay, but in spite of this a fairly satisfactory progress has been made.

#### IV. Unhealthy areas.

(1) There are no considerable areas which can be described as unhealthy. A small collection of houses known as the Normandy was the subject of an enquiry by an Inspector of the Local Government Board in 1912, who demanded certain alterations and additions which were subsequently carried out by the owner.

The condition of the area has lapsed again rather in succeeding years, but the owner has recently repaired several of the houses. Another area which does not reach a high standard of fitness is New Town. The problem of the bad tenant has to be taken into consideration in passing judgment on these areas.

## STATISTICS FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1919.

1. Number of dwellings in respect of which complaints were made that they were unfit for habitation.

a.	By householders .. .. .	0
b.	In the case of Rural Parishes, by Parish Councils, (sec. 31 (1) of Act 1890 and sec 5 (2) Local Government Act, 1894	0
	ACTION UNDER SEC. 17 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1909.	
a.	Number of dwelling houses inspected under and for the purposes of the section .. .. .	280
b.	Number of dwellings which were considered to be unfit for human habitation .. .. .	15
c.	Number of dwelling houses the defects of which were remedied without the making of closing orders.. .. .	68
	ACTION UNDER SEC. 28 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1919.	
a.	Number of orders for repairs issued .. .. .	0
b.	Number of cases in which repairs were carried out by the local authority .. .. .	0
c.	Number of dwelling houses voluntarily closed on notice by owner that they could not be made fit without re-construction .. .. .	0

### CLOSING ORDERS.

a.	Number of representations made with a view to obtaining closing orders .. .. .	0
b.	Number of closing orders made .. .. .	0
c.	Number of dwelling houses in regard to which closing orders were determined on the houses being made fit for habitation .. .. .	0

### DEMOLITION ORDERS.

a.	Number made .. .. .	0
b.	Number of dwelling houses demolished voluntarily .. .. .	1

### OBSTRUCTIVE BUILDINGS.

a.	Number of representations made (Sec. 38 Housing Act, 1890) .. .. .	0
b.	Number demolished .. .. .	0
c.	Number of representations still under consideration .. .. .	0

#### 8. Staff engaged in Housing work.

The Inspector of Nuisances is the Officer appointed by the District Council to carry out inspections under the Housing Regulations, 1910, under the supervision of the Medical Officer of Health. The duties of the Inspector are to inspect and prepare records of the condition of houses, and to send informal notices of defects when found. If these informal requests are not complied with, the records are presented to the Public Health Committee of the Council for their consideration and necessary action. The Inspector has instructions to call the attention of the Medical Officer of Health to any dwelling houses which he may find to be seriously defective. The latter then visits them and makes representations with a view to obtaining closing orders if he deems the houses to be unfit for habitation. He also sends list of houses to the Inspector which have come to his notice as requiring inspection.



*HORSHAM RURAL DISTRICT.*

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1919.



## VITAL STATISTICS, 1919.

## SUMMARY.

Area in acres .. .. .	75,334
Population at Census, 1911 .. .. .	20,794
Population estimated to middle 1919 (civilian) .. .. .	19,882
Population estimated for birth rate .. .. .	20,711
Number of births .. .. .	268
Rate per 1,000 living .. .. .	12.94
Number of deaths .. .. .	242
Rate per 1,000 living .. .. .	12.17
Excess of births over deaths .. .. .	26
Infant Mortality, under 1 year per 1,000 births .. .. .	37
Zymotic death rate .. .. .	.05
Pulmonary Tuberculosis death rate .. .. .	0.72
New houses built (working class) .. .. .	2

## ENGLAND &amp; WALES.

## W. SUSSEX. R.D.

Birth rate	18.5	14.81
Death rate	13.8	13.73
Infant Mortality	89	48

# Horsham Rural District.

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Horsham Rural District occupies the North-Eastern quarter of West Sussex, and is the largest and most populous district in the county. The district lies wholly in the Weald, the subsoil of the Northern, Southern and Western portion being composed of the Wealden Clay the remainder being formed by the Hastings beds. It is heavily wooded throughout, St. Leonard's Forest overlying a large part of the Eastern side. It is chiefly a residential district, but agriculture may be said to be the principal industry, of which the most important branch is dairy-farming. The adjoining parishes of Crawley and Ifield on the North-Eastern boundary are semi-urban in character, as also the parts of Horsham Rural Parish adjacent to the Urban District. Owing to the comparative ease in obtaining land for building purposes in the twenty years preceding the war, there had been a rapid increase of the population in some parts. On the Wealden Clay the defective water supply militates against closer settlement.

## POPULATION.

The population at the census 1911 amounted to 20,792. At the previous census 1901, it was 18,716 but in October, 1901, the district known as Roffey was transferred to the Urban District of Horsham, the population being accordingly reduced to 17,571 and the total area of the district from 75,774 to 75,334 acres. There has therefore been an increase of 3,413 persons in the ten years.

The population estimated by the Registrar-General to the middle of 1919, civilians only, was 19,882.

## POPULATION AT EACH CENSUS, 1861—1911.

Parish.	Persons. 1861	Persons. 1871	Persons. 1881	Persons. 1891	Persons. 1901	Persons. 1911
Billingshurst ..	1495	1577	1611	1658	1591	1872
Cowfold (1895) ..	946	993	1942	945	968	1152
Crawley (1880) ..	473	505	451	437	441	426
Horsham Rural ..	1893	2188	2678	2976	3649	4049
Ifield ..	1307	1639	2943	2817	3383	3995
Itchingfield ..	377	377	434	492	535	568
Lower Beeding ..	1149	1246	1309	1284	1211	1182
Nuthurst ..	767	711	811	853	808	752
Rudgwick ..	1068	1069	1122	1177	1148	1246
Rusper ..	590	599	539	548	522	630
Shipley ..	1212	1147	1114	1061	1901	1139
Slinfold ..	755	796	773	853	981	1018
Warnham ..	1006	1007	1065	1060	1075	1140
West Grinstead ..	1403	1344	1476	1582	1503	1623
Total	13,022	13,710	15,426	16,798	18,716	
Total	14,441	15,208	16,468	17,743	17,715	20,792
Persons to a house	5.48	5.05	5.12	5.29	4.51	4.56

## BIRTHS.

The total number of births belonging to the district was 268, of which 145 were males and 123 females. There were seventeen illegitimate births.

The birth rate per 1,000 living (estimated on a population of 20,711 which includes a proportion of non-civilians) was 12.94.

The following table shows the fluctuations in the birth rate during the past ten years :—

1910	19.4	1915	14.3
1911	17.4	1916	15.5
1912	17.6	1917	10.1
1913	16.3	1918	12.4
1914	16.1	1919	12.94

The birth rate in 1919 for England and Wales was 18.5 and for Rural Districts of West Sussex, 14.81.

The number of births notified to the Medical Officer of Health was 233 (including 9 stillborn) 134 by Medical Practitioners and 99 by others.

## DEATHS.

The total number of deaths belonging to the district after adding those of 46 residents dying outside and deducting eight of non-residents was 242, of these 126 were males and 116 females.

The rate per 1,000 of the estimated population (civilian only) was 12.17.

The rate for England and Wales was 13.8 and for the Rural Districts of West Sussex, 13.73.



The principal causes of death were :—

Diphtheria .. .. .	1	Bronchitis.. .. .	8
Influenza .. .. .	10	Pneumonia .. .. .	12
Erysipelas .. .. .	2	Other respiratory diseases	6
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	17	Appendicitis .. .. .	2
Tuberculous Meningitis ..	4	Cirrhosis Liver .. .. .	2
Other Tuberculous diseases	3	Nephritis .. .. .	7
Cancer .. .. .	34	Congenital Debility .. ..	5
Organic Heart Disease ..	37	Violence .. .. .	8
		Suicide .. .. .	1

The following table shows the death rate for the past ten years :—

1910	10.0	1915	11.6
1911	11.2	1916	12.0
1912	9.4	1917	13.2
1913	11.4	1918	14.7
1914	10.3	1919	12.1

The Zymotic death rate was 0.05 per 1,000.

That from Pulmonary Tuberculosis equalled 0.85 and from Influenza 5.

### INFANT MORTALITY.

Only ten deaths of infants under one year of age occurred, the rate per 1,000 births being as low as 37.

There were no deaths among illegitimate children.

The following table shows the rate of infant mortality for the past twenty years in quinquennial periods :—

1900—04	83	1910—14	52
1905—09	66	1915—19	59

The infant mortality rate for England and Wales 1919, was 89, and for Rural Districts of West Sussex 48.

The following are some details of the deaths of infants under one year of age.

1. Age 4 days, sex female. Atelectasis and exposure. Inquest. Parents censured.

2. Age 12 hours, female. Premature 7 months. Health of mother good during pregnancy, but had a fall three weeks before labour came on.

3. Age 2 months, male. Broncho Pneumonia.

4. Age 14 hours, male. Premature 7 months. Induction of labour.

5. Age 9 months, male. Broncho Pneumonia.

6. Age 6 months, male. Broncho Pneumonia.

7. Age 9 months, male. Influenza Pneumonia.

8. Age 11 hours, male. Premature, 7 months.

9. Age 36 hours, female. Premature.

10. Age 10 days, female. Asthema. Born and died outside the district.

## WATER.

Crawley and Ifield, Billingshurst, Partridge Green and some houses adjacent to the Urban District are the only areas supplied from public sources.

The Crawley and Ifield Water Company supplies the parishes named, the water being obtained from a deep bore hole in the Tunbridge Wells sands.

Billingshurst was, until 1915, supplied by the North Sussex Water and Gas Company, which, becoming bankrupt, the local authority were forced to take over the works. The supply has, of recent years, been very unsatisfactory, being quite insufficient for the needs of the village. Work is in progress for deepening the bore hole, with the object of increasing the supply.

Houses in Partridge Green, a hamlet in the parish of West Grinstead, are supplied by the Steyning Water Company.

A few private houses in Rudgwick are supplied from the mains of the Hurtwood Water Company, which might, with advantage, be extended to supply all the houses in the village.

In the rest of the district the water supply is chiefly obtained from shallow wells, always liable to pollution, and drying up in fine summers. On the Wealden Clay the hardness of the water, frequently exceeding 100 degrees, often renders its use impracticable, and is a very serious hindrance to building developments.

In consequence, a public water supply for all the villages, situated on the clay, is badly needed, especially at Broadbridge Heath, a rather densely populated hamlet of recent growth, and at Kingsfold, where an account of the impossibility of finding a suitable supply the scheme of the Council for building six new cottages has been temporarily abandoned.

The attractive scheme propounded by Messrs. Tulloch and Howarth (see annual report, 1914) was on the outbreak of war, abandoned. It was proposed, at an estimated cost of £15,000 to provide a supply, from a boring near Faygate, for the surrounding district including Broadbridge Heath, Rusper, Warnham and Slingfold. An attempt to resuscitate the scheme recently was defeated on account of the present excessive cost. Meanwhile, a much better use could be made of the rain water which is allowed to run to waste if larger storage tanks were provided.

In Crawley and Ifield, forty-eight houses have been connected to the Water Company's mains during the year.

Two water certificates were granted by the Council in respect of two pairs of new cottages at West Grinstead.

Six samples of water from wells were sent for analysis. In three the water was reported to be polluted.



## RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The River Arun runs through the district, and receives the effluent from the Urban District sewage farm and Broadbridge Heath beds. The stream is subject to rapid rises in level after rain, and generally there is little or no pollution, but in the exceptionally dry summer of 1919, the water remained nearly stagnant for several months, and the sewage fungus was visible on its banks for some distance below the outfalls of the sewage.

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

There are six areas in the district which have main drainage systems connected with sewage disposal works, namely, Crawley and Ifield, Billingshurst, Broadbridge Heath, Cowfold, Partridge Green and Warnham.

The disposal of the sewage has been satisfactory in all these during the year, with the exception of the system at Partridge Green, where, owing to the difficulty in obtaining skilled labour, and concentration of the sewage from insufficient flushing with water, the bacterial filter beds became out of order causing an insatisfactory effluent. An injunction was threatened by a neighbouring landowner through whose property the effluent drains, against the Rural District Council. The advice of the engineer who designed the works was consequently obtained. The filter beds were entirely renewed with a subsequent improvement in the effluent.

At Crawley and Ifield three cottages have been connected in 1919 with the main drainage system.

## CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

In the areas where there is main drainage nearly all houses within compulsory distance of the sewers are connected. With the exception of the larger houses, in the majority of the cottages the water closets are hand flushed. At Crawley and Ifield where there is a public water supply it is desirable that flushing cisterns should be provided.

In the other drained areas the defective water supply renders this impracticable at the present time. In the rest of the district, the larger houses are provided with private water disposal systems. The majority of cottages in the villages are provided with pail closets, but there still remain a large number of privies in the isolated dwellings scattered through the district.

Nineteen privies were converted to pail closets in 1919.

## SCAVENGING.

The only area where scavenging is carried out is in the adjoining parishes of Crawley and Ifield, where household refuse is removed twice a week.

Seventy-four sanitary ash bins were provided in 1919, making 98 for the past five years.

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

## No. 1 DISTRICT.

The following is a summary of inspection work done by Mr. W. H. Wright, C.R.S.I., Inspector of Nuisances for No. 1 district, who was demobilised in February. Mr. Wright is also the Inspector appointed under the Housing Regulation 1910, and Petrol and Carbide Inspector.

Visits of enquiry into infectious disease	..	..	..	87
Rooms Disinfected	..	..	..	85
Infectious cases removed to Hospital	..	..	..	61
Complaints from public received and investigated..	..	..	..	28

## Inspections :—

Slaughterhouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	38
Knackers yards	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Butchers shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	38
Fried fish shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	40
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Manure stores	..	..	..	..	..	..	36
Laundries	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Dairies, cowsheds, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	90
Sewage works	..	..	..	..	..	..	100
Under building bye-laws	..	..	..	..	..	..	90
Drains tested with smoke	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
Drains tested with water	..	..	..	..	..	..	74
Notices under P.H. Act, informal	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Statutory	..	..	..	..	..	..	0

## No. 2 DISTRICT.

The following is a summary of inspections, etc., done by Mr. F. Boylin, C.R.S.I., who, during the war carried out the supervision of both districts. He is also Inspector under the Housing Regulations, 1910. Mr. Boylin has now left the district, having obtained a more remunerative post :—

Visits of enquiry into infectious disease	..	..	..	57
Rooms disinfected	..	..	..	78
Cases taken to Hospital	..	..	..	10
Complaints received and investigated	..	..	..	10

## Inspections :—

Slaughterhouses and food shops	..	..	..	..	74
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	16
Cowsheds and dairies	..	..	..	..	71
Knackers yards	..	..	..	..	2
Sewage farms	..	..	..	..	95
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	162
Under building bye-laws	..	..	..	..	82
Drains tested	..	..	..	..	66
Informal notices served	..	..	..	..	64
Informal notices complied with	..	..	..	..	36
Outstanding	..	..	..	..	19



## FOOD.

## MILK SUPPLY.

There are 215 dairies and cowsheds on the register. The dairying industry is the largest in the district. During the war there were many changes in the farms, and the keeping of the register has been incomplete, but during the past year an attempt has been made to bring it up to date. All the larger cowsheds meet the requirements of the bye-laws, but a few of the smaller are still defective. Alterations were effected in seven. The conditions under which the milk is produced are not satisfactory as regards the milkers. Only in a small minority of the dairies is the milking carried out with even elementary hygienic precautions.

## MILK (MOTHERS' AND CHILDREN) ORDER, 1918.

This order is administered by the County Council.

There are 22 slaughter houses in the district in respect of which there are no bye-laws. They have been frequently visited and found to be kept in a sanitary condition.

There is no regular system of meat inspection on slaughtering.

The following amounts of food have been condemned or destroyed :—

Beef	3,476 lbs.
Mutton	155 lbs.
Carcases of pigs	3
Bacon	2 cwt.
Dates	617 lbs.

The beef condemned was chiefly on account of tuberculosis. Owing to the system of food control and distribution introduced on account of the war, the general standard of meat sold is not so high as in previous years.

There are 34 bakehouses on the register. They are well kept and regularly whitewashed.

## PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following is a list of the diseases now notifiable and the numbers notified. The order making the notification of measles and German measles compulsory was rescinded at the end of the year.

Smallpox	..	..	..	—	Acute Poliomyelitis	..	1
Cholera	..	..	..	0	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	..	2
Diphtheria	..	..	..	12	Measles	..	..
Erysipelas	..	..	..	5	German Measles	..	69
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	90	Tuberculosis	..	18
Typhus	..	..	..	—	a. Pulmonary	..	..
Typhoid (Enteric) Fever	..	..	..	—	b. Other forms	..	6
Relapsing Fever	..	..	..	—	Malaria	..	9
Continued Fever	..	..	..	—	Dysentery	..	..
Puerperal Fever	..	..	..	1	Trench Fever	..	..
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	..	..	..	—	Acute Primary Pneumonia	..	..
Encephalitis Lethargica	..	..	..	—	Acute Influenzal	..	16

Ninety cases of scarlet fever were notified in the district. Of these, 76 occurred in the adjacent parishes of Crawley and Ifield, involving 57 households. The disease was prevalent throughout the year, April being the only month in which no cases were notified, reaching its maximum during July, August, September and October. 52 of the cases notified occurring in these four months. The outbreak resembled that of 1913 being characterised by extreme mildness, rendering the diagnosis very difficult at times, as also the tracing of missed cases. There were no deaths. The majority of cases were in children, nine adults only being notified. At the beginning of the year the children attacked came chiefly from the Council School which was closed on 29th January for a fortnight. In October the children notified were found to be mostly attending the C.E. Schools, and these schools were also closed towards the end of the month, with apparently good results.

The remaining cases of scarlet fever occurred sporadically throughout the district.

Twelve cases of diphtheria were notified, seven of these being from Crawley and Ifield where the disease was very prevalent in 1918, preceding the outbreak of scarlet fever in 1919.

A fatal case of laryngeal diphtheria occurred in the Isolation Hospital, in a child notified from a solitary cottage at Gragons Green, Shipley. No other cases occurred in the vicinity.

By an order from the Ministry of Health the notification of measles order of 1915 was rescinded at the end of the year, but in a memorandum the Ministry request that any arrangements in existence for the nursing of measles will be continued by the Local Authority. The Rural District Council have an agreement with the West Sussex Nursing Association for the visiting and nursing of cases of measles notified to their nurses by the Medical Officer of Health.

There is no Isolation Hospital in the district, but 38 cases were removed to Cuckfield R.D. Isolation Hospital, and 25 to East Grinstead R.D. Hospital when the former was full.

Smallpox.—No vaccinations have been performed by the Medical Officer of Health under the regulations 1917.

### SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

1. There are two Inspectors of Nuisances, who are also the Inspectors appointed under the Housing Inspection Regulations, 1910, of building places under the bye-laws, and of Petrol and Carbide. The district is sub-divided equally between them (see annual report, 1914). During the war one Inspector was absent on military service and the whole district was under the supervision of the remaining one.

2. There is no Isolation Hospital. Patients are removed by arrangement to the Cuckfield R.D. Hospital so long as beds are available and to East Grinstead (see general report).



Smallpox is under the administration of the County Council.

### 3. Local and General Adoptive Acts and Bye-laws.

Public Health Amendment Act 1890.

Bye-laws with respect to :—

1. Dairies, cowsheds and milk shops.
2. Tents, vans and sheds.
3. New buildings.

4. The Rural District Council are members of the Clinical Research Association (see under infectious disease).

## SCHOOLS.

There are twenty-two public elementary schools in the district, half of which are modern in construction. They are kept in a good sanitary condition. The water supply is obtained except at Crawley, from wells sunk on the premises. Earth pail closets are provided where no public water supply is, with the exception of two small schools, where well kept privies still exist.

Ten schools were closed in the spring by the School Medical Officer on account of influenza, and all the Crawley and Ifield schools in March, on account of measles.

The Crawley Council Schools were closed from January 29th—February 12th, on account of scarlet fever, and the C.E. school from October 22nd—November 9th, for the same reason.

The Medical Officer of Health is also School Medical Inspector.

## HOUSING.

### I. General Housing Conditions in the District.

Inspection under the Housing Regulations 1910 was begun in 1912. The following table shows the number of houses inspected in each year :—

1912	35	1916	54
1913	297	1917	57
1914	112	1918	72
1915	102	1919	258

Total

- (1) At the census 1911 there were 4,555 inhabited dwellings in the district, at the previous census 3,850, and in 1881 there were 3,013. It is estimated that 3,000 are working classes dwellings.

Two new cottages have been erected by private enterprise, and two are in the course of erection, at West Grinstead.

From 1915—1919 twenty working classes cottages have been erected. In 1914, 37 new houses were built.

- (2) At the census 1911 the population was 20,794. There is no reason to expect more than a slight annual increase in the next few years.

In the scheme adopted by the Council it is proposed to erect 172 cottages in the following parishes :—

Billingshurst ..	12	Rudgwick ..	6
Cowfold ..	8	Rusper ..	4
Horsham Rural	58	Shipley ..	8
Ifield .. ..	24	Slinfold ..	6
Lower Beeding	12	Warnham ..	26
Nuthurst ..	8	W. Grinstead	20

It is greatly to be regretted that for economical reasons, the Ministry of Health have been obliged to cut down the cubic space in the bedrooms of the cottages in the plans which have been presented to them for approval.

- (3)a. At one period of the year there were twenty empty cottages in the district, for the most part ‘‘tied’’ dwellings, the landlords being unwilling to let, on account of their being reserved for returning soldiers, their original inhabitants.

The need for new houses would appear to be almost entirely to replace old dwellings, not capable of being made fit for habitation, or requiring extensive reconstruction to make them so.

- II. (1) In contradistinction to the Urban District, a survey, admittedly incomplete, showed a very slight demand for new houses. A considerable number were found with more than one family to a house, but few of these were overcrowded, and only three persons wanted new houses.

Only five cases of overcrowding, on the basis of more than two persons to a room were discovered. They were due to relatives from other parts of the country staying in the houses. All were abated except one, in which at present it is impossible to find other accommodation.

- III. (1) (a). Previous to 1914 there had been considerable activity in building in the district. Since 1881 fifteen hundred new houses had been erected. In consequence the proportion of comparatively new houses is fairly high.

On the other hand there remain a very large number of old houses, many substantially built, and in some respects much more habitable than the new cottages about to be erected, but generally with very deficient lighting, low pitched rooms, often not six feet high, with stone or brick floors in the living rooms. No sinks or drainage, and no properly ventilated larder.



The following is an analysis of defects found in 1919 in 258 houses inspected :—

Dampness	..	..	..	..	47
Defective drainage	..	..	..	..	63
„ privies	..	..	..	..	34
„ sinks or absent	..	..	..	..	43
„ yard paving	..	..	..	..	36
„ guttering or eaves	..	..	..	..	37
„ ventilation	..	..	..	..	32
„ lighting	..	..	..	..	9
„ roofs	..	..	..	..	14
„ floors	..	..	..	..	61
„ walls	..	..	..	..	21
„ windows	..	..	..	..	21
„ food stores or absent	..	..	..	..	12
Dirty walls and ceiling	..	..	..	..	57
No proper water supply	..	..	..	..	19

No action has been taken with regard to unfit houses, beyond the serving of informal notices upon the owners. With regard to houses which are beyond repair, no representation has been made, since it would be impossible for the Council to make effective closing orders, as was found with respect to two representations made in 1918, the house being still occupied.

In spite of the very great difficulties in obtaining labour, a fair proportion of the defective houses have been made fit, and in the majority of cases the owners have agreed to carry out the repairs demanded as soon as possible.

There are no unhealthy areas in the districts, although a very large number of defective houses, which, however, generally stand in isolated positions.

## STATISTICS FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1919.

1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which complaints were made that they are unfit for habitation :—

a. By householders	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
b. In the case of Rural Parishes by Parish Councils Sec. 31 (1) of act 1890 and Sec. 6 (2) Local Government Act, 1894	..	..	..	..	..	..	0

## ACTION UNDER 17 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1909.

a. Number of dwelling houses inspected under and for the purposes of the section	..	..	..	..	..	258
b. Number of dwellings which were considered to be unfit for human habitation	..	..	..	..	..	27
c. Number of dwelling houses the defects of which were remedied without the making of closing orders	..	..	..	..	..	61

## ACTION UNDER SEC. 28 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1919.

a.	Number of orders for repair issued	..	..	..	0
b.	Number of cases in which repairs were carried out by the local authority	..	..	..	0
c.	Number of dwelling houses voluntarily closed by on notice by owner that they could not be made fit without reconstruction	..	..	..	0

## CLOSING ORDERS.

a.	Number of representations made with a view to obtaining closing orders	..	..	..	..	0
b.	Number of closing orders made	..	..	..	..	0
c.	Number of dwelling houses in regard to which closing orders were determined on the houses being made fit for habitation	..	..	..	..	0

## DEMOLITION ORDERS.

a.	Number made	..	..	..	..	..	0
	Number of dwelling houses demolished voluntarily	..	..	..	..	..	0

## OBSTRUCTIVE BUILDINGS.

	Number of representations made (Sec. 38 Housing Act, 1890)	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
b.	Number demolished	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
c.	Number of representations still under consideration	..	..	..	..	..	..	2

Staff engaged in housing work.

The Inspectors of Nuisances are the Officers appointed by the District Council to carry out inspections under the Housing Regulations, 1910, under the supervision of the Medical Officer of Health. The duties of the Inspector are to inspect and prepare records of the condition of houses, and to send informal notices of defects when found. If these informal requests are not complied with, the records are presented to the Public Health Committee of the Council for their consideration and necessary action. The Inspector has instructions to call the attention of the Medical Officer of Health to any dwelling houses which he may find to be seriously defective. The latter then visits them and makes representations with a view to obtaining closing orders if he deems the house to be unfit for habitation. He also sends lists of houses to the Inspector which have come to his notice as requiring inspection.

*MIDHURST RURAL DISTRICT.*

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**1919.**

## VITAL STATISTICS, 1919.

## SUMMARY.

Area in acres .. .. .	66,775
Population at census, 1911 .. .. .	15,283
Population estimated to middle of 1919 (civilians) ..	14,144
Number of births .. .. .	204
Rate per 1,000 living .. .. .	13.84
Number of deaths .. .. .	197
Rate per 1,000 living .. .. .	13.92
Excess of births over deaths .. .. .	7
Infantile mortality under 1 year per 1,000 births ..	29
Death rate per 1,000 from 7 principal epidemic diseases ..	0.14
Death rate per 1,000 from pulmonary tuberculosis..	0.7
New Houses built .. .. .	0
England & Wales      W. Sussex R.D.	
Birth Rate                      18.5	14.81
Death Rate                      13.8	13.73



# Midhurst Rural District.

## NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Midhurst Rural District occupies the North-Western corner of the county, adjoining the counties of Hampshire and Surrey.

Petworth Rural District lies to the East of it, and the summit of the South Downs form its Southern boundary. The subsoil for the most part is composed of the Upper and Lower Greensands with the chalk in the Southern parts. The Northern half of the District is very hilly and heavily wooded. The River Rother traverses the District from West to East. Agriculture, including dairy farming, may be said to be the only industries, the latter having greatly increased in recent years. Most of the milk is sent to London. The District is largely residential in character, large houses being numerous and the people whose living is dependent on them are usually well housed.

## POPULATION.

The population at the census 1911 was 15,283, showing an increase of 1671 on the previous decade.

The population estimated by the Registrar General to the middle of 1919 was 14,144 civilians only, and 14,734 for the purpose of estimating the birth rate.

### POPULATION AT EACH CENSUS, 1861—1911.

	1861	1871	1881	1891	1901	1911
Persons . . . . .	12608	13042	13965	13247	13612	15283
Persons to a house	5.10	4.97	4.98	4.84	4.54	4.46

## BIRTHS.

The total number of births belonging to the District was 204, of which 106 were males and 98 females.

The number of illegitimate births was 22.

The rate per 1,000 living, estimated on a population of 14,734 which includes a proportion of non-civilians was 13.84, the lowest recorded.

The excess of births over deaths was seven.

The following table shows the fluctuation in the birth rate during the past ten years :—

1910	21.3	1915	16.3
1911	19.1	1916	16.9
1912	20.7	1917	14.5
1913	19.8	1918	15.8
1914	16.2	1919	13.84

Notifications of 197 births were received by the Medical Officer of Health, 116 from Doctors and 81 from Midwives and others.

Five births were stillborn.

## DEATHS.

The total number of deaths belonging to the District after deducting those of six non-residents and adding 29 of residents dying outside of the district was 197, of which 96 were males, and 101 females.

The rate per 1,000 living estimated on the population of 14,144 was 13.92.

The following table shows the rate for the past ten years :—

1910	9.2	1915	14.3
1911	10.4	1916	14.8
1912	10.6	1917	12.5
1913	10.2	1918	12.8
1914	10.7	1919	13.92

The principal causes of death were as follows :—

Whooping cough .. .. 2	Bronchitis .. .. 11
Influenza .. .. 17	Pneumonia .. .. 7
Pulmonary Tuberculosis .. 10	Other respiratory diseases 4
Tuberculosis Meningitis .. 1	Nephritis .. .. 5
Other Tuberculous diseases 1	Parturition .. .. 1
Cancer .. .. 17	Congenital Debility .. 1
Rheumatic Fever .. .. 1	Violence .. .. 5
Organic Heart disease .. 29	Suicide .. .. 1

The death rate from Influenza was 1.2 and from Pulmonary Tuberculosis 0.7 per 1,000 living, the rate for the latter in the Rural Districts of West Sussex was 0.95.

The Zymotic death rate equalled 0.14, as compared with 0.21 for other Rural Districts of the county.

## INFANT MORTALITY.

Six infants under one year of age died during the year, of which two were illegitimate.

The rate of mortality per 1,000 births was as low as 29.

The following table shows the infant mortality in quinquennial periods for the past twenty years :—

1900—04	89	1910—14	60
1905—09	81	1915—19	71

In 1915 and 1916 the infant mortality rates were 111 and 97 respectively, whilst in 1917, 18, 19, they were 64, 53 and 29.

The decline in the rate in the Midhurst district has not hitherto compared favourably with that of other Rural Districts.

The co-incidence of the decline in the past three years with the introduction of health visiting and maternity and child welfare is significant.



The causes of death and ages were :—

1. Age 6 months, male. Pneumonia.
2. Age one day, female. Premature.
3. Age nine months, male. Broncho-Pneumonia.
4. Age five months, female. Congenital heart disease.
5. Age four days, male. Premature.
6. Age five minutes, male. Premature.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

### WATER.

The parishes of Midhurst, Easebourne and West Lavington are supplied through the Council mains from deep wells, supplemented by supplies from the Cowdray Estate reservoir, which is collected from springs at Easebourne.

The water is of good quality and free from pollution, but the supply is not abundant and barely meets the requirements of the area supplied. The acquisition of a further supply to augment the existing is under consideration.

The amount of water raised during the year was 13,500,000 gallons, or approximately ten gallons per day per head of the population served.

The houses in the district known as Camelsdale, part of the parishes of Fernhurst and Linchmere are served by the Wey Valley Water Company.

Part of the parish of Cocking is supplied from springs issuing from the Downs.

In the rest of the district water is mostly obtained from shallow wells. Apart from the risk of pollution, the water is of good quality and abundant compared with other parts of the combined district.

One sample of water was taken for analysis and found to be polluted.

No water certificates were granted by the Council in 1919.

### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Midhurst, Easebourne and West Lavington which have a joint system, are the only parishes with complete main drainage, and portions of the Parishes of Tillington and Rogate have a main sewer, but there is no special treatment of the sewage.

Conservancy systems for the emptying of closets and cesspools by local contractors in conjunction with scavenging are in force in the parts of the Parishes of Lynchmere and Fernhurst, near Haslemere, and at Harting.

The larger houses in the rest of the district are provided with water closets, connected to cesspools or other disposal systems. In the more closely settled parts of the villages, earth pail closets now predominate. Privies are still to be found among the more isolated houses, but are being steadily replaced.

Ten privies were converted to pail closets in 1919.

SCAVENGING is carried out in five parishes.

In Midhurst and Easebourne, refuse is removed twice a week, and dealt with at the sewage works.

At Lynchmere scavenging is carried out twice a week by contract in conjunction with the emptying of pail closets and cesspools.

One hundred and seventy-two pail closets are dealt with.

In the part of Fernhurst adjoining, the same system is in force, sixty pail closets being emptied twice a week.

At Harting scavenging and emptying of pail closets is carried out by contract twice a week. The refuse is taken to a farm at a distance from the Village.

In all the areas where scavenging is undertaken, so far as is known, sanitary movable ash bins are provided.

### SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

The following is a statement of the inspections, etc., done by Mr. S. E. Stratford, Inspector of Nuisances, who is also Inspector under the Housing Regulations, 1910.

Premises visited and inspected	..	..	..	..	1130
Nuisances found and reported	..	..	..	..	36
Houses disinfected	..	..	..	..	41
Overcrowding reported	..	..	..	..	7
Drains tested and re-laid	..	..	..	..	13
Informal notices served	..	..	..	..	31
Statutory notices served	..	..	..	..	8
Statutory notices complied with	..	..	..	..	8

### SCHOOLS.

There are twenty three public elementary schools in the district, none of which, with one exception are of modern type. Where public water supply exists, water is obtained from the mains, in other schools from shallow wells on the premises.

Earth pail closets, except at Midhurst and Easebourne, are provided. The schools are generally kept in a clean and sanitary condition.

Six schools were closed for short periods in the spring by the School Medical Officer on account of influenza. Easebourne Infants and Lodsworth were closed from June 16th—July 1st, and July 24th—August 1st, respectively, on account of the prevalence of measles.

Sporadic outbreaks of Scabies, before the war almost unknown, became rather frequent. They could almost always be traced to returning soldiers.

The Medical Officer of Health is also School Medical Inspector, with the exception of the schools at Midhurst and Easebourne.



## FOOD.

## MILK SUPPLY.

There are 112 dairy farms on the register.

The production of milk is the chief industry of the district, and has increased rapidly in recent years.

Thirteen applications were received in 1919 for registration, of which six were in respect of new businesses. In two cases the buildings did not meet the requirements of the bye-laws, as regards having drainage and ventilation. The necessary alterations were made.

During the past few years, the administration of the bye-laws has received the attention of the Council, and the state of the cowsheds compares favourably with others in the combined district, but modern hygienic precautions in milking are still neglected in a large proportion of the farms.

The bulk of the milk is sent out of the district, chiefly to London.

## MILK (MOTHERS' AND CHILDREN'S) ORDER, 1918.

This order is administered by the County Council.

There are seven slaughter houses in the district, four of which are registered and three licensed. They are frequently visited, and are kept in good order.

There is no regular system of meat inspection at the time of slaughtering.

The following foods were condemned as unfit for human consumption :—

Bacon, 112 lbs. Butter, three boxes, 168 lbs.

There are 28 bake-houses in the district, none of which are underground.

They have been found to be kept in a sanitary condition on the visits of the Inspector.

## PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following is a list of the diseases now notifiable and the numbers notified. The order making the notification of measles and German measles compulsory was rescinded at the end of the year.

Smallpox .. .. .	—	Acute Poliomyelitis ..	—
Cholera .. .. .	—	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	4
Diphtheria .. .. .	10	Measles	} .. 56
Erysipelas .. .. .	1	German Measles	
Scarlet Fever .. .. .	9	Tuberculosis .. .. .	17
Typhus .. .. .	—	a. Pulmonary.	
Typhoid (enteric) Fever ..	—	b. Other forms .. .. .	4
Relapsing Fever .. .. .	—	Malaria .. .. .	6
Continued Fever .. .. .	—	Dysentery .. .. .	—
Puerperal Fever .. .. .	—	Trench Fever .. .. .	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever .. ..	—	Acute Primary Pneumonia	—
Encephalitis Lethargica ..	—	Acute influenzal pneumonia	4

Of the nine cases of Scarlet fever notified, six occurred in one family at Easebourne. Two of the same family had been notified as having diphtheria three months previously. No evidence was obtainable as to the origin of the disease. Two other cases were notified from Graffham at the end of October, two being in one family. The first case was a girl who had recently returned home.

Of the ten cases of Diphtheria four were notified in one family at Midhurst, and two in the family mentioned above at Easebourne. Three other cases were notified from the Parish of Tillington, and a single case in a returned soldier at Lurgashall. In all these cases great anxiety was caused by the lack of proper isolation facilities, not only by the fear of the spread of the disease, but also on account of the impossibility of providing efficient nursing of the patients.

The six cases of Malaria were all in soldiers returned from the east. The *Anopheles* mosquito occurs in the district, but does not appear to be in abundance.

Three of the four cases of Ophthalmia neonatorum were notified from the North-Western part of the district in the vicinity of the Canadian Camp at Bramshott. This disease is under the care of the County Council who provide a special nurse for each case.

Fifty-six cases of Measles were notified, forty-six by medical practitioners and ten by others.

There was an outbreak in July in the adjoining parishes of Midhurst and Easebourne. Thirty-one children were attacked by the disease which was of a mild nature. They were all visited by nurses, but no serious cases were found needing further attention. A similar outbreak occurred in Lodsworth about the same time, and was also of a mild nature.

The remaining cases occurred sporadically in different parishes.

30,000 units of Diphtheria antitoxin were supplied to medical practitioners.

The Rural District Council are members of the Clinical Research Association. During the year 38 specimens were sent for the examination of Diphtheria organisms, and 17 for Tuberculosis.

## SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

### STAFF.

There is one Inspector of Nuisances, Mr. S. E. Stratford, A.R.S.I., who is also the Officer appointed as Inspector under the Housing Regulations, 1910. In addition to these, he also carries out the duties of Petrol and Carbide Inspector.

The supervision of the sewage works, water supply and new buildings under the bye-laws is in the care of Mr. A. Gibbs, who is also Road Surveyor to the District Council.

There is no Hospital accommodation for infectious diseases. (See general report and prevalence of infectious diseases).

Smallpox is under the administration of the County Council.



## ADOPTIVE ACTS AND BYE-LAWS IN FORCE.

Public Health Amendment Act, 1890.

Bye-laws.

Came into force.

1. New Streets & Building (Rural model) .. Dec. 12th, 1906.
2. Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops .. Oct. 11th, 1887.
3. Slaughter houses as far as Bepton, Easebourne, Harting, Midhurst and West Lavington.

## METEOROLOGICAL.

The following particulars with regard to the rainfall during the year have been kindly supplied by Mr. E. Lamb, of Borden Wood in the North-Western part of the district.

	Inches.	No. of		Inches.	No. of
	Total	days.		Total.	days.
January ..	6.30	17	July ..	1.44	11
February ..	2.88	9	August ..	3.34	11
March ..	6.12	19	September ..	1.42	7
April ..	2.81	10	October ..	0.49	4
May ..	0.70	6	November ..	2.22	17
June ..	0.61	3	December ..	6.93	22

Total, 1919, 35.26 inches.

## HOUSING.

The inspection of the houses under the Housing Regulations, 1910 of the Housing and Town Planning Act was begun in 1912.

The following table shows the number of houses inspected in each succeeding year :—

1912	104	1916	63
1913	183	1917	54
1914	169	1918	53
1915	86	1919	132

At the census 1911 there were 3,425 inhabited dwellings, an increase of 426 since the previous census.

The number of cottages used by the working classes is estimated at approximately 2,500.

No new houses have been built during 1919, or are in the course of erection.

The population at the census 1911 was 15,283. Estimated by the Registrar-General to the middle of 1919 it was 14,144.

Although the birth rate showed at the end of the year some signs of recovering, there is no special reason to expect an unusual rate of increase in the population in the near future.

In the years preceding the war there was a considerable shortage of working class houses in the district, and several schemes were under consideration for meeting it. There is a very keen demand by strangers in this very attractive region for week-end cottages, which creates a shortage for the working classes.



The chief need for cottages is to replace a number of dwellings which either cannot be made fit for habitation, or require reconstruction to such an extent as to render the enforcement of alterations impracticable.

It is reported, but difficult to confirm, that a certain number of young men are desirous of getting married and want houses.

In order to satisfy the demand for new dwellings for the working classes, the Rural District Council have adopted a scheme for the erection of sixty cottages in the following parishes :—

Cocking .. .. .	4	Rogate .. .. .	4
Fernhurst .. .. .	6	Selham .. .. .	4
Harting .. .. .	4	Tillington .. .. .	4
Heyshott .. .. .	4	Trotton .. .. .	4
Iping .. .. .	4	Woolbeding .. .. .	4
Linchmere .. .. .	10	Graffham .. .. .	6
Lodsworth .. .. .	2		

In addition two landowners have promised to erect sixteen cottages in Midhurst and four in Stedham respectively.

The scheme approved in 1914, but postponed on account of the war, to build four cottages at Chithurst will also be proceeded with making a total of eighty-four new houses for the district.

### OVERCROWDING.

The result of the survey in the autumn did not reveal a large extent of overcrowding. Eight cases have been discovered, four being in the Parish of Rogate. In two cases there were found to be four persons to a room, and in five there were three persons to the room. In the remaining case, three families occupied two small cottages with insufficient space, although there were only two persons to a room.

The chief causes of overcrowding were large families and the presence of lodgers. All the cases were relieved four of them are the service of statutory notices.

The extensive overcrowding which existed in the area known as Camelsdale, forming of parts of the adjoining parishes of Fernhurst and Lynchmere, in 1917 and 1918, due to the proximity of a large camp, had entirely disappeared in the past year.

The general standard of housing in the district is fair, but the majority of working class cottages are old, and although substantially built, generally of stone, are defective as regards ventilation and lighting, the windows of the bedrooms being frequently very small. Owing to the age of the cottages, dampness in varying degrees is common. Stone and brick floors contributing to it in many cases. Perhaps the most serious defects found are the total absence of sinks and drainage and want of proper accommodation for storing food.

The following is a list of some of the defects found in 132 houses inspected in 1919 :—

Defective roofs	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
„ walls	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
„ ceilings	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
„ staircases	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
„ floors	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
„ larders	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
„ ventilation	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
„ lighting	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
„ paving of yards	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
„ closets	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	22
„ water supply	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
No sinks or drainage	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	32

A complete inspection of the houses in the village of Graffham was made on account of an unofficial complaint that the housing conditions were unsatisfactory, and a report sent in to the Public Health Committee by Mr. S. E. Stratford, the Inspector.

The parish contains seventy working class cottages, of which fifty belong to one owner. Four of these were found to be empty at the time, but were shortly to be occupied, one after being put in repair. Three cottages were found to be so defective as to be unfit for habitation. Twelve were provided with privies, seven without sinks or drainage, and several requiring minor repairs.

The owners have in all cases undertaken to carry out the demands of the Council.

It is proposed to build six new cottages in the village to replace three unfit for habitation, and to provide accommodation for three families who work in the village, but at present are forced to live at a distance.

Harting and Rogate are parishes which contain many houses of a low standard of habitability. Action concerning which will be taken at the earliest practicable opportunity.

From the beginning in 1912 of the inspection of houses in the district, a slow but steady progress was made in the improvement of the conditions until the outbreak of war in 1914. The policy of the Council is to proceed as far as possible by informal methods, and the owners of defective properties have hitherto shown a willing disposition to comply with the requests made to them. In spite of the difficulties experienced since 1914, which are even now only slowly being got over, a certain amount of progress was made. As in other districts the shortage of labour is very acute.

No representations have been made by the Medical Officer of Health with regard to unfit houses.

There are no unhealthy areas in the district. A collection of twelve houses in Duck Lane, Midhurst, was the subject of action taken in 1912, which led to a great improvement.



Two houses were demolished to afford air space and light to the remainder, and a third closed to make a common wash-house. The other cottages were put into a thorough state of repair and provided with proper drainage. The cottages are very small and have only one real bedroom. They are suitable for old couples, but strict supervision is required in order that no overcrowding should occur.

## STATISTICS FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1919.

1. Number of dwellings in respect of which complaints were made that they were unfit for habitation :—

a.	By householders .. .. .	0
b.	In the case of Rural Parishes, by Parish Councils Sec. 31 (1) of Act 1890 and Sec. 6 (2) Local Government Act, 1894 .. .. .	0

### ACTION UNDER SEC. 17 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1909.

a.	Number of dwelling houses inspected under and for the purposes of the section .. .. .	132
b.	Number of dwellings which were considered to be unfit for human habitation .. .. .	8
c.	Number of dwelling houses the defects of which were remedied without the making of closing orders.. .. .	59

### ACTION UNDER SECTION 28 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1919.

a.	Number of orders for repairs issued .. .. .	0
b.	Number of cases in which repairs were carried out by the Local Authority .. .. .	0
c.	Number of dwelling houses voluntarily closed no notice by owner that they could not be made fit without reconstruction .. .. .	0

### CLOSING ORDERS.

a.	Number of representations made with a view to obtaining closing orders .. .. .	0
b.	Number of closing orders made .. .. .	0
c.	Number of dwelling houses in regard to which closing orders were determined on the houses being made fit for habitation .. .. .	0

### DEMOLITION ORDERS.

a.	Number made .. .. .	0
b.	Number of dwelling houses demolished voluntarily .. .. .	0

### OBSTRUCTIVE BUILDINGS.

a.	Number of representations made (Sec. 38 Housing Act, 1890) .. .. .	0
b.	Number demolished .. .. .	0
c.	Number of representations still under consideration .. .. .	0

Staff engaged in Housing work.



The Inspector of Nuisances is the Officer appointed by the District Council to carry out Inspections under the Housing Regulations, 1910, under the supervision of the Medical Officer of Health. The duties of the Inspector are to inspect and prepare records of the condition of houses, and to send informal notices of defects when found. If these informal requests are not complied with, the records are presented to the Public Health Committee of the Council for their consideration and necessary action. The Inspector has instructions to call the attention of the Medical Officer of Health to any dwelling houses which he may find to be seriously defective. The latter then visits them and make representations with a view to obtaining closing orders if he deems the houses to be unfit for habitation. He also sends lists of houses to the Inspector which have come to his notice as requiring inspection.



*PETWORTH RURAL DISTRICT.*

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1919.



# Petworth Rural District,

## 1919.

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### VITAL STATISTICS, 1919.

#### SUMMARY.

Area in Acres .. .. .	45,754
Population at Census, 1911 .. .. .	8,776
Population Estimated to middle of 1919 (civilians) ..	7,445
Number of Births .. .. .	114
Rate per 1,000 living .. .. .	13.4
Number of Deaths .. .. .	109
Rate per 1,000 living .. .. .	14.6
Infantile Mortality under 1 year per 1,000 births ..	44
Excess of Births over Deaths .. .. .	5
Death Rate from 7 principal Epidemic Diseases ..	0.1
Death Rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis .. .. .	1.0
Number of New Houses Built (working class) ..	3

# Petworth Rural District.

## NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

Petworth Rural District occupies the central part of the Northern Division of the County. To the north part of the County of Sussex forms the boundary, and on the east the river Arun divides it from Horsham and Thakeham Districts. The western boundary is formed by Midhurst Rural Districts, and the summit of the South Downs separates it from the Westhampnett District. The River Rother traverses the southern part before joining the Arun.

Geologically in the greater part of the district, the subsoil consists of the Wealden Clay. The southern portion of the district is traversed by ridges of lower greensand, gault and upper greensand, merging into the chalk of the South Downs. Petworth, the only village of any size, is situated on the lower greensand. The district is heavily wooded, and apart from the supplementary occupations afforded by the woodlands, the majority of the inhabitants are occupied in agricultural pursuits, dairy farming forming a highly important branch. The bulk of the land is comprised of large estates.

## POPULATION.

The population at the Census 1911, was 8,776. At the previous census of 1901, 8,529, showing a slight increase. Between the census of 1881 and 1901, there was a decrease of 902. The population estimated to the middle of 1919 by the Registrar General was (civilians), 7,445, and including non-civilians for birth rate, 7,755.

## POPULATION AT EACH CENSUS 1861—1901.

PARISH.			Persons.	Persons.	Persons.	Persons.	Persons.	Persons.
			1861	1871	1881	1891	1901	1911
Barlavington	..	..	136	132	182	175	130	134
Bignor	..	..	67	150	122	127	104	112
Burton	..	..	45	67	73	57	54	47
Bury	..	..	509	533	517	531	481	527
Coates	..	..	78	94	61	84	71	71
Duncton	..	..	258	262	268	259	245	249
Egdean	..	..	85	80	76	75	59	92
Fittleworth	..	..	683	695	696	761	657	648
Kirdford	..	..	1784	1796	1710	1648	1447	1470
Northchapel	..	..	785	802	794	742	782	765
Petworth	..	..	3368	3304	2942	2867	2503	2486
Stopham	..	..	130	145	156	151	139	158
Sutton	..	..	364	331	310	325	243	275
Wisborough Green	..	..	1682	1756	1687	1629	1614	1742
Total			10065	10147	9594	9431	8529	8776
Persons to a house			5.11	5.05	4.81	4.71	4.51	4.49

## BIRTHS.

The nett number of births belonging to the district was 114, of which 53 were males and 61 females.

There were 9 illegitimate births.

The rate per 1,000 of the population estimated to include the proportion of non civilians whether serving at home or abroad was 14.7.

The following table shows the fluctuations in the birth rate during the past ten years.

1910	20.1	1915	15.9
1911	22.4	1916	16.8
1912	20.3	1917	13.6
1913	22.1	1918	12.7
1914	18.4	1919	14.7
Rural Districts West Sussex ..	..	1919	14.81
England and Wales .. ..	..	1919	18.5

One hundred and fifteen births were notified to the Medical Officer of Health (including one still-born) 53 by Medical Practitioners and 62 by Midwives and others.

## DEATHS.

The nett number of deaths belonging to the District excluding non-residents, and adding those of residents dying outside of the District was 109. Males 59. Females 50.

The principal causes of death were as follows :—

Whooping Cough .. ..	1	Organic Heart Disease ..	27
Influenza .. ..	12	Bronchitis .. ..	2
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	8	Pneumonia .. ..	2
Tuberculosis Meningitis ..	1	Nephritis .. ..	4
Other Tuberculous Diseases	2	Parturition .. ..	1
Cancer .. ..	14	Violence .. ..	5
		Suicide .. ..	1

The death rate per 1,000 of the estimated civilian population was 14.6.

The rates for the past ten years is given below :—

1910	11.4	1915	16.2
1911	11.7	1916	11.2
1912	12.1	1917	15.4
1913	10.5	1918	15.6
1914	12.7	1919	14.6
West Sussex Rural Districts ..	..	1919	13.73
England and Wales .. ..	..	1919	13.8

The death rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis was 1.0 and from Influenza, 1.3 per 1,000 of the population.



## INFANT MORTALITY.

Five children died under one year of age, the rate per 1,000 births being 44.

The following table shows the average rate of infant mortality for 20 years in quinquennial periods.

1899—1903	102	1909—1913	69
1904—1908	76	1914—1918	61

The rate for England and Wales 1919 was 89.

The rate for West Sussex Rural District, 48.

The following are some particulars of the deaths of the five children who died under one year of age.

1. Age 3 days, sex, male, cause of death, Premature, 7 months.  
Mother had influenza at 4 months, Antepartum Hemorrhage.  
Child weighed only  $2\frac{1}{2}$  lbs.
2. Age 38 hours, sex, female ; cause of death inanition.
3. Age 16 hours, sex, female ; Premature, inanition.
- 4 & 5. Twins, male. Premature, 8 months. Health of mother poor, much domestic work.

The Cottage Hospital at Petworth consisting of 5 beds, provides the only general hospital accommodation in the district. Seventy-seven cases were admitted during the year. Other cases are sent usually to the Royal West Sussex Hospital at Chichester.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

### WATER SUPPLY.

#### PETWORTH PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY.

The public supply is gathered from springs rising in a meadow about a mile south of the town. The meadow, which is about two acres in extent, is a narrow strip of land on the left bank of a tributary of the River Rother. On the eastern boundary of this field the land rises abruptly to a considerable height. It is close up to this high bank that the spring issues. The water is collected by means of small land pipes and by larger open socket pipes laid a few inches below the surface of the ground ; and by these pipes the water is conducted to a tank. From the tank the water is conveyed by means of properly constructed iron pipes to a pumping station situated about 300 feet distant. The water is then raised to a reservoir on a hill over 200 feet above the sea level, and about a mile east of the town of Petworth. A main from the reservoir conveys the water to the town and branch pipes distribute it to the houses. The meadow where the public supply is derived is pasture land, but is not the property of the District Council. In times of flood, the springs are liable to become contaminated by sub-soil water, and by the river which flows past the collecting tank. Negotiations have been in progress several years with

the owner of the land to allow the Council to lay iron pipes from the spring to the collecting tank in place of the existing agricultural pipes, but nothing has yet been settled.

The consumption of water in Petworth town during the year amounted to 18,810,500 gallons; approximately 10 gallons per head per day.

Lord Leconfield has provided a private water supply to the parishes of Duncton and Byworth, the water in both cases being derived from natural springs in the neighbourhood.

In the rest of the district, water is obtained mostly from shallow wells. In the northern part, on the wealden clay, the water obtained by sinking wells is often of very poor quality, being exceedingly hard, owing to the presence of magnesium salts, and frequently containing an excess of chlorides.

#### RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The Rivers Rother and Kird, both tributaries of the Arun. No indication of pollution has been observed in the former, but the latter was polluted in the summer by the drainage from the Kirdford creamery. A notice was served on the owners to abate the nuisance.

#### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Petworth is the only parish in the district which has a main drainage system. The drainage scheme was carried out in 1880, and the house connections were made three or four years later. As the town is situated on a hill over 200 feet above sea level, it was found convenient to have two outfalls. The outfall north of the town is about a quarter of a mile north-east of the Union Workhouse and about the same distance east of Hampers Common. The sewage is roughly screened, and the solids are utilised on the land. The effluent discharges into a ditch, and after undergoing a certain amount of oxidation, reaches a tributary of the River Rother, which is about 800 feet from the outfall. As the outfall is down the valley and away from houses, there is no nuisance. The southern outfall is about a mile to the south of the town, and in an equally isolated spot. The system of sewage disposal is very similar to the northern. With the exception of six houses which are below the level of the sewer, all the houses in the special drainage area are now connected with the main system. In the rest of the district privies, earth closets and water closets connected with cesspools are in use, the former predominating.

#### SCAVENGING.

Petworth is the only parish where scavenging is regularly carried out. House refuse is collected twice a week and deposited on land adjoining the Workhouse where it is sorted and the destructable material burnt. The receptacles in use are for the most part of an unsatisfactory character, very few houses being provided with proper sanitary ashbins. More energetic steps should be taken by the Sanitary Authority in insisting that owners should provide these articles which are such an important factor in preserving the public health.



## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

The following is a summary of the work carried out by Mr. G. Suter, Surveyor to the Council, who also acted as Inspector of Nuisances pending the appointment of a new Inspector :—

Total number of Inspections .. .. .	942
Nuisances and other matters reported to Council ..	55
Complaints received and dealt with .. .. .	11
Houses disinfected .. .. .	22
New houses built .. .. .	1
Water Certificates granted .. .. .	1
Samples of water sent for examination .. .. .	2
Statutory notices served .. .. .	9
Nuisances abated without notice .. .. .	10
Drains tested and found defective .. .. .	2
Drains re-laid .. .. .	1

## SCHOOLS.

There are sixteen public elementary schools in the district. Many of these are old and unsanitary, especially Plaistow and Kirdford. New offices have been built at Plaistow during the year. The water supply, except in Petworth, is obtained from wells on the school premises. All the schools are provided with earth pail closets, with the exception of those in Petworth. They are generally kept in good order.

Nine schools were closed by the School Medical Officer during January to March on account of influenza.

The Medical Officer of Health is also School Medical Inspector. For action taken in regard to infectious disease, see general report.

## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

This is administered by the County Council. The establishment of a centre at Petworth would be of great benefit to the town and neighbourhood.

## SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

Mr. J. Oakes, M.R.S.I., was Inspector of Nuisances for the District until 1916, when he was called up for military duties. On demobilisation in 1919, he obtained another post. Mr. G. Suter, Road Surveyor to the Council, undertook the duties of Inspector of Nuisances during Mr. Oakes' absence.

The Inspector of Nuisances is also the officer appointed to inspect houses under the Regulation 1910, and is also required to supervise the Petworth Town Waterworks and sewage system. The District is a wide one, but thinly populated, and is capable of being efficiently supervised by a single whole-time inspector of nuisances, provided provision for travelling is made. Early in the year I wrote to the Council, calling attention to the advisability of ap-

pointing a new officer in place of Mr. Oakes, but they did not consider it necessary, and obtained consent from the late Local Government Board to allow the Road Surveyor to continue in both capacities until the end of the war. Later in the year I again wrote to the Council, pointing out the impossibility of Mr. Suter carrying out both duties efficiently. The Council, having considered the question, decided to advertise for an Inspector of Nuisances, and have recently appointed Mr. Wilfred Parker, A.R.S.I., who also holds certificate for meat inspection. He will begin his duties on April 1st, 1920, provided his appointment is sanctioned by the Ministry of Health.

### ADOPTIVE ACTS, BYE-LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

	Date of coming into force.
1. Infectious Disease Prevention Act, 1890.	August, 1891.
2. Public Health Amendment Act, 1890.	August, 1891.

### BYE-LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

1. Tents, Vans and Sheds	Feb. 2nd, 1891.
2. Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.	May 1st, 1898.

### FOOD.

All the cowsheds and dairies have been inspected during the year. There being now eighty-eight on the Register. Alterations and repairs have been carried out in six cases. Others still require them, and the general condition as regards cleanliness is capable of much improvement.

The arrangements for the production of pure milk are unsatisfactory. On very few farms are even elementary precautions as to cleanliness taken by the milkers.

### MILK (MOTHER AND CHILDREN) ORDER, 1918.

The administration of this Order is under the County Council.

### BAKEHOUSES.

There are sixteen in the district, none underground, and all well kept and limewashed at least twice a year.

### SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There are seven slaughterhouses in the district, three being in Petworth. For the most part they are badly situated, and ill constructed.

No meat inspection has been carried out during the year.



## PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following is a list of the diseases now notifiable, and the number notified. The order making the notification of measles and German measles compulsory was rescinded at the end of the year :—

Smallpox	..	..	..	Acute Poliomyelitis	..
Cholera	..	..	..	Ophthalmia Neomatorum	
Diphtheria	..	..	5	Measles	} .. 8
Erysipelas	..	..	1	German Measles	
Scarlet Fever	..	..	6	Tuberculosis—	
Typhus	..	..	..	a. Pulmonary	.. .. 7
Typhoid (Enteric) fever	..	..	..	b. Other forms	.. .. 7
Relapsing fever	..	..	..	Malaria	.. .. 2
Continued fever	..	..	..	Dysentery	.. ..
Perperial fever	..	..	1	Trench Fever	.. ..
Cerebro-Spinal fever	..	..	..	Acute Primary Pneumonia	
Encephalitis Lethargica	..	..	..	Acute Influenza	.. .. 16

The District enjoyed a considerable immunity from notifiable infectious disease throughout the year. Of the six cases of scarlet fever notified, three occurred at Northchapel, two cases being in one family. Two other cases occurred in one family at Duncton, and a single case in Petworth parish. Two cases of Diphtheria were notified from Ebernoe, both being removed to the cottage used as an isolation hospital at Petworth. A carrier case was found at the school. The other cases of Diphtheria were notified from Northchapel two, and Byworth one.

A destructive wave of influenza spread through the district in April, visiting the remotest houses and causing twelve deaths. Beyond the assistance rendered by local nurses, no organized effort was made to deal with the outbreak.

18,000 units of Diphtheria antitoxin were supplied to medical practitioners. The Council are now members of the Clinical Research Association. Sixteen specimens for the diagnosis of Diphtheria, and one for tuberculosis were sent for examination.

## HOUSING.

Under Section 17 of the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909. It is the duty of the Local Authority to cause a thorough inspection of the dwelling houses in their district to be carried out from time to time by the Medical Officer of Health, or by an Officer designated by the Local Authority, but acting under the Medical Officer of Health's direction and supervision. The methods by which the inspection is to be carried out is laid down in the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations of September, 1910.

Where it appears to the Minister of Health that the Local Authority have failed to carry out the inspection of their district as required by the Act 1909, he may by order require them to remedy the default within a fixed time, and the order may be enforced by proceedings in the High Court.

Inspection under the Act in Petworth Rural District was begun in 1912.

The following is the number of houses inspected in each year :—

1912	53	1916	0
1913	130	1917	0
1914	101	1918	0
1915	15	1919	11

## GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS IN THE DISTRICT.

- (1) At the census of 1911 there were 1,956 dwellings in the district, the number of persons to a house being 4.49. Of these it is estimated that about two-thirds or approximately are working class houses.

No new houses for the working classes have been built during the year, but there are in the course of erection two in Northchapel parish and one in Sutton.

- (2) The population at the census 1911 was 8,776, as estimated by the Registrar General to the middle of 1919 it was 7,755.

As estimated from returns of the Food Controller for the purposes of the survey, it was 7,749, showing a very considerable reduction.

It is very difficult to forecast what changes can be anticipated in the near future, since they will largely depend on the course which the Agricultural industry takes.

- (3)a The need for new houses is only to a small extent on account of overcrowding, but a large number are required to replace dwellings that cannot be made fit for habitation (10) and those on the border line estimated at 100. Until the new cottages under the scheme are built, it is impossible to take any effective steps with regard to these dwellings, since if representations with a view to obtaining closing orders are made by the Medical Officer of Health, the Council deem it impracticable under the existing conditions to make them.
- (3)b The scheme adopted by the Council provides for the erection of cottages in the following parishes :—

Byworth	..	..	4	Sutton	..	..	12
Bury	..	..	12	Wisborough Green			18
Duncton	..	..	6	Loxwood	..	..	12
Fittleworth	..	..	12	Northchapel		..	8
Kirdford	..	..	6	Plaistow	..	..	4
Petworth	..	..	24				

Total 118.



## OVERCROWDING.

- (1) Overcrowding does not appear to exist to any appreciable extent. Inquiries made by the Deputy Sanitary Inspector for the purposes of the survey and other inquiries through the local nurses and others revealed only four cases, in Petworth, which were abated.
- (2) Causes of overcrowding were lack of other accommodation and large families.

## FITNESS OF HOUSES.

- (1)a Until a complete survey under the Housing and Town Planning Act is made, it is impossible to give an accurate description of the housing in the district, but the general standard may be divided into two categories (a) those working class cottages owned by large landowners ; (b) by small owners as investments.
  - (a) These for the most part are generally fit for habitation and are kept in good repair, although many are very old, and do not reach a high standard in respect of lighting.
  - (b) These cottages comprise a large number of very old houses and present very great difficulties on account of the lack of means of the owners. Many of the defective cottages in the district are very picturesque, and are eagerly sought after by strangers desiring week-end cottages, who are in a position to spend considerable sums on their renovation, and since they only inhabit them during the summer months, do not appreciate the defects which become more obvious in the winter. So long as new cottages built for the working classes so displaced this affords a good solution of the difficulty, but the necessary increase in rents in the new cottages will, I fear, create a serious problem.
- (1)b The defects existing in the older cottages are of all descriptions, defective lighting from small windows being perhaps the worst, although the little light that does enter the rooms is generally obscured by curtains. Dampness, from lack of damp proof courses and from brick floors, want of adequate food store, and lack of sinks and drainage are next in order, followed by defective yard paving.
- (2) Very little action has been taken during the year.
- (3) Owing to the shortage of labour, which undoubtedly is a very real difficulty. There are a number of houses which are awaiting representation, with a view to obtaining closing orders, but until new dwellings are erected, it is useless to proceed, since the evicted tenants would have nowhere to go.

4. (1) There are no considerable areas which can be described as unhealthy. The town of Petworth is old with narrow streets, and there are six houses awaiting representations with a view to obtaining closing orders. The only considerable unhealthy area in the town was demolished in 1913.
- (3) None.
5. (1) There are no building bye-laws. Regulations and bye-laws with regard to tents, vans and sheds were adopted in 1899. No action under them is reported to have been taken in 1919.

### STATISTICS FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1919.

1. Number of dwellings in respect of which complaints were made that they are unfit for habitation :—

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| a. By Householders .. .. .   | 0 |
| b. In the case of rural parishes, by parish councils (Sec. 31 (1) of Act 1890 and Sec. 6 (2) Local Government Act, 1894 .. | 0 |

#### ACTION UNDER SEC. 17 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1909.

- |   |    |
|---|----|
| a. Number of dwelling houses inspected under and for the purposes of the Section .. .. .                      | 11 |
| b. Number of dwellings which were considered to be unfit for human habitation .. .. .                         | 3  |
| c. Number of dwelling houses, the defects of which were remedied without the making of closing orders .. .. . | 3  |

#### ACTION UNDER SEC. 28 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1919

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| a. Number of orders for repairs issued.. .. .  | 0 |
| b. Number of cases in which repairs were carried out by the local authority .. .. .  | 0 |
| c. Number of dwelling houses voluntarily closed by on notice by owner that they could not be made fit without reconstruction .. .. . | 0 |

#### CLOSING ORDERS.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| a. Number of representations made with a view to obtaining closing orders.. .. .   | 1 |
| b. Number of closing orders made .. .. .   | 0 |
| c. Number of dwelling houses in regard to which closing orders were determined on the houses being made fit for habitation .. .. . | 0 |



## DEMOLITION ORDERS.

a. Number made	..	..	..	..	..	0
Number of dwelling houses demolished voluntarily	..	..				0

## OBSTRUCTIVE BUILDINGS.

Number of representations made (Sec. 38) Housing Act, 1890						0
b. Number demolished	..	..	..	..	..	0
c. Number of representations still under consideration	..					0

## STAFF ENGAGED IN HOUSING WORK.

The Inspector of Nuisances is the officer appointed by the District Council to carry out inspections under the Housing Regulations, 1910, under the supervision of the Medical Officer of Health. The duties of the Inspector are to inspect and prepare records of the condition of houses, and to send informal notices of defects when found. If these informal requests are not complied with, the records are presented to the Public Health Committee of the Council for their consideration and necessary action. The Inspector has instructions to call the attention of the Medical Officer of Health to any dwelling houses which he may find to be seriously defective. The latter (in normal times) then visits them and makes representations with a view to obtaining closing orders, if he deems the houses to be unfit for habitation. He also sends lists of houses to the Inspector, which have come to his notice as requiring inspection.



*THAKEHAM RURAL DISTRICT.*

---

1919.



# Thakeham Rural District.

## 1919.

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### VITAL STATISTICS, 1919.

#### SUMMARY.

Area in acres .. .. .	40,632
Population at Census, 1911 .. .. .	8,334
Population estimated to middle of 1919 (civilians) ..	7,414
Number of Births .. .. .	123
Rate per 1000 living .. .. .	15.9
Number of Deaths .. .. .	105
Rate per 1000 living .. .. .	14.16
Excess of births over deaths .. .. .	18
Infantile mortality under 1 year per 1000 births ..	49
Death rate from 7 principal Epidemic Diseases ..	0.26
Death rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis .. ..	0.67
Number of New Houses built (working class) .. ..	5

# Thakeham Rural District.

## NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Thakeham Rural District is situated between Horsham Rural District on the north and East Preston on the south. To the west, the River Arun separates it from Petworth, and on the east the River Adur from East Steyning Rural District. The Wealden Clay forms the subsoil of the northern part of the district, the central part being formed by the Lower Greensand, Gault and Upper Greensand. The southern portion of the district lies on the South Downs, and with the exception of the village of Findon is sparsely inhabited.

The district is purely agricultural and residential in character, and contains no large town. Storrington situated at the foot of the Downs, and Pulborough are the two chief villages. Dairy farming has of late years increased considerably, and is becoming one of the chief industries.

## POPULATION.

The population at the census 1911 was 8,334. Estimated by the Registrar General to the middle 1919 (civilians only) it was 7,414.

For the purpose of calculating the birth rate, including non-civilians, whether serving at home or abroad, it was 7,723.

## POPULATION AT EACH CENSUS, 1861—1901.

PARISH.	Persons.	Persons.	Persons.	Persons.	Persons.	Persons.
	1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.	1901.	1911
Amberley .. ..	456	535	570	525	560	541
Ashington .. ..	234	277	213	219	180	179
Coldwaltham .. ..	447	426	389	338	351	354
Findon .. ..	655	681	708	775	656	798
Greatham .. ..	51	60	59	66	52	55
Hardham .. ..	87	117	101	124	111	132
North Stoke .. ..	58	95	103	100	91	106
Parham .. ..	71	65	88	58	73	83
Pulborough .. ..	1852	1855	1808	1787	1726	1969
Rackham .. ..	194	151	161	134	132	136
Storrington .. ..	1104	1184	1351	1293	1016	1186
Sullington .. ..	241	159	200	212	149	190
Thakeham .. ..	559	631	534	486	404	514
Warminghurst .. ..	106	140	97	70	81	83
Washington .. ..	908	908	844	838	737	797
West Chiltington .. ..	668	701	664	620	626	622
Wiggonholt .. ..	34	39	38	52	48	58
Wiston .. ..	311	311	357	352	310	321
Total ..	8,036	8,335	8,285	8,049	7,303	8,334
Persons to a house ..	5.05	4.93	5.01	5.00	4.50	4.49

## BIRTHS.

The total number of births belonging to the district was 123 : Males 63, females 60.

There were nine illegitimate births.

The birth rate per 1,000 living of the estimated population was 15.92.

The rate for Rural Districts of West Sussex was 14.8, and for England and Wales, 18.5.

The excess of births over deaths was 18.

The following table shows the fluctuations in the birth rate during the past ten years.

1910	20.4	1915	20.2
1911	20.9	1916	16.3
1912	19.2	1917	13.7
1913	19.8	1918	14.1
1914	17.2	1919	15.9

The total number of births notified to the Medical Officer of Health was 123, by Doctors 56, by others 67.

## DEATHS.

The nett number of deaths belonging to the district after deducting those of four non-residents and adding ten of residents dying outside of the district was 105, of these 51 were males and 54 females.

The death rate per 1,000 living of the estimated civilian population was 14.16.

The following table shows the rates for the past ten years :—

1910	11.2	1915	13.8
1911	12.8	1916	9.6
1912	10.4	1917	13.8
1913	10.5	1918	16.5
1914	10.5	1919	14.1

The rate for Rural Districts of West Sussex for 1919 was 13.73 and for England and Wales 13.8.

The rate from Influenza was 2.6 ; from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 0.67, and Zymotic diseases, 0.26.

The principal causes of death were as follows :—

Diphtheria .. .. .	1	Diarrhoea .. .. .	1
Influenza .. .. .	20	Cirrhosis Liver .. .. .	2
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	5	Nephritis .. .. .	1
Tuberculous Meningitis ..	1	Puerperal Fever .. .. .	1
Cancer .. .. .	11	Violence .. .. .	2
Meningitis .. .. .	3	Suicide .. .. .	1
Organic Heart Disease ..	16	Bronchitis .. .. .	9
Pneumonia (all forms) ..	3		



### INFANT MORTALITY.

Six children under one year of age died during the year, the rate per 1,000 births being 48.8.

The following table shows the changes during the past twenty years in periods of five years :—

1900—04	75	1910—14	68
1905—09	81	1915—19	44

There were no deaths among the illegitimate children.

The following are particulars of the causes of death of the six infants :—

1. Age one month, male. Premature, 38 weeks, Insufficient breast milk mother.
2. Age two days, male. Premature 7 months, caused by fright due to fire in house.
3. Age 8 hours, male. Premature. Inanition.
4. Age 6 hours, male. Accidental suffocation. Inquest.
5. Age 26 days, male. Gastric Enteritis. Parents caravan dwellers.
6. Age 6 months, male. Broncho Pneumonia. First child. Mother healthy, breast fed, house clean.

There are no General Hospitals in the District.

Patients are sent to the County Hospital, Brighton, or to the Worthing Hospital.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

#### WATER.

Only one village—Storrington—has a public water supply. The works were completed in 1915. The water obtained from a deep bore in the greensand is of excellent quality, and abundant, but rather fluctuating yield. The depth of the water in the bore hole varying in the year from 129 feet in March to 82 feet in December.

Two hundred and twenty-seven houses are now connected to the mains. Twenty-seven houses being supplied during the year.

The total consumption for the year was 4,551,900 gallons. The rest of the district is supplied mainly from shallow wells, the water on the whole being of fair quality.

At Findon, a village lying on the chalk, difficulty arises in obtaining water. Many houses deriving their main supply from rain water collecting tanks.

#### RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The Arun, forming the western boundary of the district, is tidal as far as Pulborough. No pollution has been noticed, but a small tributary which runs through the village of Storrington receives a certain amount of pollution from drains. It is, however, a quickly running stream with a considerable bulk of water.

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

There are no main drainage systems in the district.

The villages of Storrington and Pulborough are in need of them. The sanitary condition of the latter village, which has been unfavourably commented on in the annual report of the Medical Officer of Health for the past twenty years, remains the same.

The closet accommodation consists chiefly of privies, which were slowly being replaced before the war by earth pail closets, but no conversions have been made during the past year.

Scavenging is only undertaken in Storrington village, being carried out weekly. It is badly needed in the village of Pulborough

The following is a summary of the work done by Mr. H. Burrows, A.R.S.I., who resumed his duties after demobilization, in February.

Inspections and re-inspections .. .. .	1012
Nuisances reported .. .. .	69
Nuisances abated .. .. .	20
Nuisances in hand .. .. .	46
Overcrowding reported .. .. .	4
Overcrowding abated .. .. .	2
Samples of water taken .. .. .	8
Water certificates granted .. .. .	17
Premises disinfected .. .. .	47
Notices served, informal .. .. .	70
Notices served, statutory .. .. .	0

## SCHOOLS.

There are twelve public elementary schools in the district, none of them being of modern type as regards construction, some of the class rooms being defective in lighting arrangements, especially at Pulborough C.E. All are provided with earth pail closets with the exception of Thakeham, which has well looked after privies.

Wiston and Buncton School was closed from February 18th to March 2nd on account of Influenza, and again on account of Measles from June 12th to 29th.

Findon, on account of Measles from May 10th to 18th, and Cold Waltham twice on account of Diphtheria, from and July 9th to 31st.

The Medical Officer of Health is also School Medical Inspector.

## PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following is a list of the diseases now notifiable, and the numbers notified. The order making the notification of Measles and German Measles was rescinded at the end of the year.



Smallpox .. .. .	—	Acute Poliomyelitis ..	—
Cholera .. .. .	—	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—
Diphtheria .. .. .	13	Measles }	.. 47
Erysipelas .. .. .	—	German Measles }	
Scarlet Fever .. .. .	13	Tuberculosis .. .. .	—
Typhus .. .. .	—	a. Pulmonary .. .. .	18
Typhoid (Enteric) Fever ..	—	b. Other Forms .. .. .	2
Relapsing Fever .. .. .	—	Malaria .. .. .	1
Continued Fever .. .. .	—	Dysentery .. .. .	—
Puerperal Fever .. .. .	1	Trench Fever .. .. .	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever .. ..	—	Acute Primary Pneumonia	—
Encephalitis Lethargica ..	—	Acute Influenza .. .. .	4

There was an outbreak of Diphtheria in the adjoining parishes of Coldwaltham and Hardham during the summer, eleven cases being notified. The first notified, in a child of ten, on May 26th, proved fatal before the notification reached me. The mother afterwards contracted the disease. On visiting Coldwaltham School, I found that there had been many cases of sore throats in the school for the past three weeks, the nature of which was unsuspected. On examination of the children, three were still found to be positive. The school was closed from June 7th—16th. Four more cases occurred from July 5th—11th, and the school was again closed from 19th until the holidays. Two further cases were notified in September and October.

Scarlet Fever was prevalent in the Parish of Findon during the summer and autumn, ten cases being notified. Two occurred in June, three in July and five in November, three of the latter being in one family. No connecting link was obvious between the cases, and the school did not appear to be implicated. Nine cases were removed to the Hove Borough Isolation Hospital by arrangement, after a good deal of delay caused by the difficulty in obtaining transport.

The Red Cross Society have now placed a motor ambulance at the disposal of the District Council, which will greatly facilitate the removal of cases in the future, besides being immensely useful for other purposes.

Forty-seven cases of Measles were notified, fifteen by Doctors and thirty-two by Nurses and patients. The bulk of the cases occurred in the Parishes of Wiston and Buncton.

24,000 units of Diphtheria Antitoxin were supplied to medical practitioners.

The District Council are now members of the Clinical Research Association. Thirty-five swabs have been examined for Diphtheria organisms.



## FOOD.

## MILK SUPPLY.

The number of dairies and cow sheds on the Register is 65, the number of cows kept being approximately 977. All of the sheds are limewashed at least twice a year, but many of the smaller ones are badly constructed and drained. Manure is allowed to accumulate too long in the majority, and with few exceptions not even elementary cleanliness is observed in milking.

A large proportion of the milk is sent out of the district.

## MILK (MOTHERS' AND CHILDREN'S ORDER), 1918.

No action has been taken by District Council as the County Council undertook the administration of the Order.

Milk was sold retail in Pulborough during the winter at 8d. a quart.

## BAKEHOUSES.

There are twelve bakehouses in the district. These were found to be clean on inspection, but two cases the regulation as to lime-washing had not been observed.

## MEAT.

There are seven slaughter houses in the district. Four of these have fallen into disuse during the war owing to alterations in the distribution of meat by the Food Controllers, much fewer home-fed cattle being killed locally.

There is no regular system of meat inspection.

## SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

The staff of the district consists of one Inspector of Nuisances, Mr. H. Burrows, A.R.S.I., who was appointed in 1913. He joined the R.A.M.C. in 1914, and was demobilized in February, 1919, returning to his work at once.

The Inspector of Nuisances is also the Officer appointed under the housing regulations, and also supervises the Storrington Waterworks, collects the rents of the Council's cottages and is also Carbide and Petrol Inspector (without extra remuneration).

The district is a wide one, but not thickly populated, and is capable of being efficiently supervised by one Inspector providing adequate travelling facilities are granted.

There is no hospital accommodation for infectious diseases. (See general report).

Provision for smallpox is made by the County Council.

Hove Borough Isolation receives cases on payment when accommodation is available and has met the needs of the district during the year.

The District Council are members of the Clinical Research Association. For details of work done see Infectious disease.

## HOUSING.

Under Sec. 17 of the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909. It is the duty of the Local Authority to cause a thorough inspection of the dwelling houses in their district to be carried out from time to time by the Medical Officer of Health, or by an Officer designated by the Local Authority, but acting under the Medical Officer of Health's direction and supervision.

The methods by which the inspection is to be carried out is laid down in the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations of September, 1910.

Where it appears to the Minister of Health that the Local Authorities have failed to carry out the inspection of their District as required by the Act, 1909, he may, by order, require them to remedy the default within a fixed time, and the order may be enforced by proceedings in the High Court.

A hasty and perfunctory inspection of the District was made during 1911—12, but the records were kept in a very incomplete fashion, little except the names and addresses appearing in many. Practically no steps were taken by the Council to enforce repairs. On the appointment of a whole time Sanitary Inspector in 1913, the inspection was put on more efficient basis, but being unfortunately interrupted by his joining the Army in 1914, has not been resumed until his demobilization in 1919.

1. (1) General Housing Conditions in the District.

At the census of 1911 there were 1863 inhabited dwellings in the district with an average of 4.49 persons to a house.

- (2) The population at the census 1911 was 8,334. Estimated to the middle of 1919 by the Registrar General it is . No extensive changes are foreshadowed, there being no evidence that the native population is likely to increase beyond the normal. In the ten years preceeding 1901 there was a decrease of 740 persons.

- (3)a. Shortage of houses is due to a slight extent on account of overcrowding, and also to the attractions of the district from a residential point of view. There is a large demand by "foreigners" for cottages for summer residences, which tends to displace the working class residents.

New houses are wanted to replace houses which cannot be made fit for habitation and many others which are rapidly becoming so.

1. 3(b) In the scheme adopted by the Council it is proposed to build 136 new cottages in the following parishes —

Amberley.	Pulborough.
Ashington.	Storrington.
Coldwaltam	Thakeham.
Findon	Washington.
Greatham.	West Chiltington.



It was intended that 102 of these should be of the parlour type with three bedrooms, the remainder non-parlour with three bedrooms, but for economical reasons the number of the former will probably be reduced.

The scheme when carried out would appear to meet the requirements of the district.

## 2. OVERCROWDING.

- (1) As far as could be ascertained by an hasty and incomplete survey, overcrowding is not prevalent to any serious extent, except perhaps in the village of Findon, where its chief cause is the attraction of the place as a residential locality, and its proximity to Worthing.

No action is possible, save under exceptional circumstances until new dwellings are provided, but two cases were abated by elder children going out of the district to obtain work.

## 3. Fitness of houses.

- (1)a The general standard of housing is unsatisfactory, there being a large proportion of very old cottages. Many of these are very picturesque, and some effort should be made to preserve them, although a large amount of reconstruction will be necessary.
- b. All varieties of defects are present, deficient lighting being predominant in the older houses. Dampness due to want of guttering, no damp courses and brick floors is also common, whilst a very large number of cottages exist without sinks and proper drainage, and no adequate provision for the storage of food.
- (3). No action beyond the serving of informal notices has been taken by the Authority with regard to unfit houses. In the cases of houses which it is considered cannot be made fit no effective action is possible until new cottages are built.

The Medical Officer of Health made one representation early in the year in respect of a dwelling, but the Council have been unable up to the present time to make an effective closing order. The shortage of labour, more intense in a sparsely populated district, is undoubtedly a very serious difficulty, but as this becomes slowly relieved, it is desirable that more effective steps than the serving of informal notices should be adopted by the Sanitary Authority.

- (4). The Village of Storrington has a public water supply which was completed in 1915. Nearly all the houses are now connected with the mains. This village is also the only one in which any arrangements are made



for the disposal of refuse. There are no main drainage systems in the district. The closet accommodation consists mainly of privies, which, however, are very slowly being converted to pail closets.

- IV. There are no considerable unhealthy areas in the district, although there are numerous unfit houses. There is a collection of a dozen houses, known as Brewers yard in Storrington, many of which are defective, and two of which at least will require demolition when alternative accommodation is available.

#### STATISTICS FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1919.

1. Number of dwellings in respect of which complaints were made that they are unfit for habitation :—

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| a. By householders .. .. .  | 0 |
| b. In the case of rural parishes, by parish councils (Sec. 31 (1) of Act 1890 and Sec. 6 (2) Local Government Act, 1894 | 0 |

#### ACTION UNDER SEC. 17 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1909.

- |   |    |
|---|----|
| a. Number of dwelling houses inspected under and for the purposes of the section .. .. .                | 52 |
| b. Number of dwellings which were considered to be unfit for human habitation .. .. .                   | 18 |
| c. Number of dwelling houses the defects of which were remedied without the making of closing orders .. | 0  |

#### ACTION UNDER SEC. 28 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1919.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| a. Number of orders for repairs issued .. .. .   | 0 |
| b. Number of cases in which repairs were carried out by the local authority .. .. .  | 0 |
| c. Number of dwelling houses voluntarily closed by on notice by owner that they could not be made fit without reconstruction .. .. . | 0 |

#### CLOSING ORDERS.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| a. Number of representations made with a view to obtaining closing orders .. .. .  | 1 |
| b. Number of closing orders made .. .. .   | 0 |
| c. Number of dwelling houses in regard to which closing orders were determined on the houses being made fit for habitation .. .. . | 0 |

#### DEMOLITION ORDERS.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| a. Number made .. .. .                              | 0 |
| Number of dwelling houses demolished voluntarily .. | 0 |

#### OBSTRUCTIVE BUILDINGS.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Number of representations made (Sec. 38) Housing Act, 1890 .. .. . | 0 |
| b. Number demolished .. .. .                                       | 0 |
| c. Number of representations still under consideration ..          | 0 |

## 8. Staff engaged in housing work.

The Inspector of Nuisances is the Officer appointed by the District Council to carry out inspections under the Housing Regulations, 1910, under the supervision of the Medical Officer of Health. The duties of the Inspector are to inspect and prepare records of the condition of houses, and to send informal notices of defects when found. If these informal requests are not complied with, the records are presented to the Public Health Committee of the Council for their consideration and necessary action. The Inspector has instructions to call the attention of the Medical Officer of Health to any dwelling houses which he may find to be seriously defective. The latter then visits them and makes representations with a view to obtaining closing orders if he deems the houses to be unfit for habitation. He also sends lists of houses to the Inspector which have come to his notice as requiring inspection.

# GENERAL REPORT.

## WEST SUSSEX NORTHERN COMBINED SANITARY DISTRICT.

### Comparative Statistics.

District.	Area in Acres Land and Water.	Inland Water.	Population Census 1911.	No. Inhabited Houses Census 1911	Persons to a House.	Rateable Value March 1914.
Rural Districts						
Horsham ..	75,834	396	20,792	4,555	4.56	£162,290
Midhurst ..	66,775	273	15,280	3,425	4.46	£89,290
Petworth ..	45,754	260	8,776	1,956	4.49	£50,112
Thakeham ..	40,632	80	8,334	1,858	4.49	£63,374
Urban District						
Horsham ..	1,279	—	11,314	2,545	4.45	£59,385
Total ..	229,774	1009	64,946	14,239	4.49	£426,451

District.	Population Estimated to Middle of 1919.		Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Infant Mortality.	Pulmonary Tuberculosis Death Rate.	Zy-motic Death Rate.
	For Death Rate.	For Birth Rate.					
Horsham Urban ..	11,227	11,695	13.85	16.38	74	1.24	0.08
Horsham Rural ..	19,882	20,711	12.94	12.17	37	0.85	0.05
Midhurst Rural ..	14,144	14,734	13.84	13.92	29	0.70	0.14
Petworth Rural ..	7,445	7,755	14.70	14.64	44	1.07	0.13
Thakeham Rural ..	7,414	7,723	15.92	14.16	49	0.67	0.26
West Sussex County	167,634	174,625	14.84	14.20	57	1.0	0.26
W.Sx.Rural Districts	85,21	182,243	14.81	13.73	48	0.95	0.21
England & Wales ..	—	—	18.5	13.8	89	—	—



## ISOLATION HOSPITALS.

There are no properly equipped Hospitals for the treatment of infectious disease in any of the areas comprising the Combined District.

Petworth Rural District have a small cottage in which three cases of one disease can be isolated, and Horsham Urban District have an old farm house situated on the sewage farm which has not been used for ten years, and was refused recognition by the Local Government Board after a visit by one of their Inspectors in 1913.

Midhurst Rural District has no provision whatever, and there is no accommodation within a reasonable distance.

Both Horsham Urban and Rural Districts, now that motor ambulances are available, have been fairly well served recently by making use of the Cuckfield Rural District Hospital, and of the East Grinstead, but neither of these would be available if the accommodation was required by patients in these districts.

The same applies to Thakeham R.D. which sends cases, when no home isolation is possible, to Hove Borough Hospital.

In the Combined District there are over 400 dairy farms, a large proportion of which send milk out of the District, and the risk of serious loss of income to the owners when outbreaks of infectious disease occur among the employees is very considerable.

Various schemes have been under consideration in the years preceding 1915, culminating in a local enquiry by the County Council at Chichester in July, 1914. It was recommended by the Committee holding the enquiry that an order should be asked, for the purpose of constructing a large Central Isolation Hospital in conjunction with a tuberculosis block belonging to the County Council, the two schemes being amalgamated with the view of economy in administration. This scheme was abandoned at the end of 1914, but the original idea is again under consideration; the County Council having decided to purchase the Aerodrome at Tangmere near Chichester, where numerous buildings which may easily be converted into blocks for the treatment of tuberculosis and other infectious diseases are in existence. From the point of view of the Local Authorities in the Northern Combined District with the exception of Petworth and Midhurst, the scheme is not very attractive owing to the great distance patients would have to be carried.

## NURSING OF MEASLES.

By an order from the Ministry of Health the compulsory notification of measles was discontinued at the end of the year, but the option of continuing it by Local Authorities is permitted.

The District Medical Officer of Health is usually aware of an outbreak of measles, being notified by school teachers, before notifications from Medical practitioners reach him, and therefore there is not much object in compulsory notification, especially as it involves a large amount of extra clerical work and some expense.

All the Sanitary Authorities in the Combined District have made an arrangement with the West Sussex Nursing Association for the visiting and nursing of cases of measles notified to them.

The Ministry of Health in a circular accompanying the order for the recission of notification request that Local Authorities will still continue any arrangements made for nursing. Although no virulent outbreak of measles has occurred since the introduction of the scheme, the educational value of the Nurse's visits has, I feel sure, been great, and it is very desirable that the scheme should be continued either by the Local Authority of the County Council. As the organization of the Nursing Association improves, so will the efficiency of the existing arrangements.

### PRECAUTIONS TAKEN AGAINST THE SPREAD OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

All notifications of infectious diseases are sent to the Medical Officer of Health. In some districts the certifying practitioner informs the Sanitary Inspector at the same time.

On the receipt of a notification the Medical Officer of Health immediately reports the case by letter or telegram to the Sanitary Inspector of the district, who is expected at once to visit the house, to make an examination of the sanitary conditions, to enquire into the circumstances of the outbreak, and to send a full report to the Medical Officer of Health. If, on receipt of the report from the Sanitary Inspector, the Medical Officer of Health thinks it necessary, he at once proceeds to visit the case personally, and in certain cases does not wait for the report. If the outbreak appears to be connected with a school this is visited, and a search made for "missed" cases.

The Medical Officer of Health is also Assistant School Medical Officer.

### DISINFECTION.

On recovery of the patient, the medical practitioner in attendance fills up a stamped addressed post card notifying the Inspector that the house is ready for disinfection.

In a few cases the disinfection is carried out under the direction of the medical attendant, who certifies that it has been done to his satisfaction.

The method employed is to fumigate the rooms, either with formaldehyde gas or sulphur dioxide, to strip the paper from the walls and limewash the ceilings, to wash all the woodwork with disinfectant, and to boil all washable materials used by the patient.

A supply of Diphtheria antitoxin is kept by the Medical Officer of Health, and sent to practitioners on application. The Sanitary Inspector in each district keeps a stock of 4,000 units in case of emergency.



## TUBERCULOSIS.

The regulations of the Local Government Board with regard to the compulsory notification of all forms of this disease in addition to Pulmonary Tuberculosis, came into force on February 1st, 1913.

In organizing a campaign against Tuberculosis, three authorities are concerned, namely the County Council, the Insurance Committee, and the District Councils as Sanitary Authorities, the main duty of the latter being to take steps to prevent the spread of the disease.

A Tuberculosis Officer for the county was appointed in June, 1913. With the object of co-ordinating the work of these authorities and of preventing overlapping, Dr. R. D. Smedley, County Medical Officer, called a conference to which all the Medical Officers of Health in the county were invited. At this meeting the functions of each local sanitary authority in dealing with a case of Tuberculosis recently notified to its Medical Officer of Health were defined as follows :—

1. Visiting the home of a patient by the M.O.H. or Sanitary Inspector.
2. Preparation of a report on the home conditions, to be sent to the County Medical Officer when applied for.  
A copy of the special form adopted is appended.
- 3.—The remedying of any sanitary defects, overcrowding, etc., found.
4. Disinfection of the rooms occupied by the patient :—
  - (a) To be offered at the time of the first visit and carried out if accepted.
  - (b) To be carried out on the removal or death of the patient.
5. Distribution of advice books on the precautions that should be taken to prevent infection of other persons.
6. Provision of spitting cups and flasks to patients in poor circumstances.



# Northern Combined Sanitary District of West Sussex.

## RURAL DISTRICT OF HORSHAM.

### PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

#### Report on Home Conditions.

Case No.....

Horsham.....191

Name of patient :—

Age

Address :—

No. of :—Rooms

Bedrooms

Families

Occupants

Overcrowding

Rent

Patient's Bedroom. Occupied by :—

Persons,

Beds.

No. of persons sharing patient's bed.

Cleanliness :—Walls

Ceiling

Floor

Bedding

Nature of Floor Coverings

Excess of Furniture

Aspect

Window—Adequate

Defective

Ventilation

Lighting

Fireplace

Window open by day

By night

Dampness, etc.

House :—

Garden :—Size

Aspect

Suitable for Shelter

Other Sanitary Defects :—

Action contemplated by Sanitary Authority :—

Disinfection :—Offered

Accepted

Supplied with :—Advice Book

Sputum Flash

Sputum Pot

Remarks :

Signed.....

